

PERSONAL

This is the last of my back page personal columns, as I have now come to the end of my four year stint, so I thought I would look both backwards and forwards at these troubled times for education.

There is no doubt at all in my mind that the morale of teachers has fallen drastically since 1980. Indeed, a significant part of my motivation every second Friday has been to cheer up, however slightly, a profession that is under the cosh, and subject to abuse that is largely undeserved.

On the same day this week I went to a meeting at which a leading businessman stood up and said that teachers were anti-industry, unwilling to prepare pupils for the world of work, and read an article by a Marxist critic which accused teachers of merely producing obedient factory fodder for our capitalist society. As that piece of graffiti put it: I used to suffer from schizophrenia, but now both of us are cured.

While major HMI reports continue to say that most teachers and most pupils in most schools work hard, the education correspondents of some national and local newspapers have the greatest difficulty persuading their editors to print anything which hints of good news about education. One newly appointed education specialist of a well-known, high selling national

newspaper was told on the first day not to waste time writing favourable stories about comprehensive schools. These would not be published as it was the newspaper's policy to be critical of such schools. Small wonder that the popular image of comprehensive schools is of riots, indiscipline and low standards, yet the HMI secondary school survey reported that only 25 schools out of nearly 400 in the sample were thought to have serious discipline problems.

The morale of teachers has not been helped by the hostile pronouncements of a succession of junior and senior ministers in education, some of whom knew as much about education as the average flea. The one significant, if temporary, lift to morale from a politician came when Sir Keith Joseph publicly recognized the difficulties faced by teachers in his North of England speech last January.

Nor did it help when Miss Piggy herself described education as a disaster, the evidence for this not being stated. One thing that has incensed me during the last four years has been Miss Piggy's behaviour being likened to that of a headmistress. If the average headmistress ran her school as autocratically as Miss Piggy runs the Government, put down her colleagues publicly, was prone to outbursts of



Ted Wragg

petulance, and ruled by fear, she would find staff, pupils and parents petitioning Court House.

Most headmistresses I know are infinitely more skilful and thoughtful in their relationships with their colleagues, and could teach politicians a thing or two about managing scarce resources and keeping up the morale of an ageing and beleaguered workforce.

Indeed, despite the depressing atmosphere which has deadened so much potential enterprise in schools over the past four years, there has been much to cheer about. Not the least has been the immense skill shown by some of our most senior people in education: HMI fighting off Government interference and preserving their right to comment fearlessly on teaching quality as well as on the desperate shortages in many schools, and chief education officers and their associates, heads, deputies and other people in positions of leadership running the service against the odds.

I remember talking to James, or rather "Joe" Stone as he was affectionately called, before he retired as masterly CEO of Nottinghamshire. Being a CEO reminded me of the labours of Hercules which I was at that time reading to my son each night. I mused. As soon as one problem was solved another requiring super human strength presented itself. What was worse, I continued, a CEO had to manage without the help of Zeus, and presumably was always having to resort to the sort of solution Hercules devised when told to clean out years of accumulated dung in the Augean stables: bash a hole in each end and divert a river through them. Joe thought for a moment and then a look

of resignation flitted across his face. "I'd never get planning permission", he observed.

Perhaps the next few years will bring better things. There is now much speculation about the future of Sir Monty Python in the supposed autumn reshuffle. Indeed, one newspaper has suggested that Mrs Linda Chalker will take over, an idea based, I suspect, on the reassuring attraction of her surname to those politicians who favour didactic teaching styles.

In the end I shall not be surprised if Sir Monty carries on a year or two longer. If only he could resist the temptation to interfere censoriously in the ESRC, the Open University and controversial issues in the curriculum, and would make more speeches supporting the efforts of teachers, he would go down as one of the better ministers. Then in a couple of years time, whereas most people hope to move to the patrician class with some appropriate title, perhaps he could be promoted into the proletariat and given a life commonwealthship with the title "Alf Ramsbottom of Hunter".

Finally, for those who wonder about future developments in Swinshire I can tell you that they intend to set up a surrogate parent service for any education committee short of knuckleheads. Have a good summer.

DIARY

How the HMIs opened the stable door for the pantomime horse

Now the holidays have arrived at last, I am signing off with a report on Her Majesty's Inspectorate in general and on Mr Eric Bolton, the Queen's Senior Chief Inspector of Schools in particular. That title, at any rate, was the one Miss Browne, his predecessor, preferred, she took extremely seriously both the royal relationship and her formal independence from the Secretary of State. More important, she was a stickler for "getting things right". Reports would be endlessly mulled over until she was satisfied they were fair, objective and intellectually defensible.

Mr Bolton's report on Haringey schools is one which demanded rather more of Miss Browne's midnight oil than it seems to have received. It shuffles between being a report on four comprehensives and ten primaries, almost all in Tottenham, Wood Green, which the HMIs visited (they eschewed the lush Highgate highlands) and the whole of the borough of Haringey.

On examinations, it is the whole borough which is slated. In para 31 of the report, its O level results are compared unfavourably with national averages. We are then told in a footnote that the figures are not comparable.

The report goes on: "Taking account of socio-economic factors, examination results were below the levels that might be expected". We are told in another footnote that this statement is based on DES Statistical Bulletin 16/83 - the only attempt that has been made so far to judge the examination results of a local education authority against the social and economic disadvantages it has to face; we are not informed, however, that in this survey, Haringey's exam results came out less than 2 per cent below its prescribed norms - a statistically insignificant difference. Richmond and Waltham Forest, for what it's worth, came out far worse.

Not this, I think DES Statistical survey 16/83 was worth very much. But it is on these insignificant percentage points that Haringey's exam results are stigmatized. The HMIs then proceed to their conclusion in para 66 - widely quoted in the press and on television

"External examination results were poor by national standards, even allowing for the many difficulties facing schools in an area like Haringey". On the DES's own evidence, this statement is not true.

Too bad. The statistical stage had already been set to present the report to the media. The two messages were first that there is only a minimal relationship between public spending and educational standards, (Haringey is a "high-spending" authority) and, secondly, that state schools in our cities are providing a shoddy product.

I'm not saying that Mr Bolton constructed his report to propagate this myth - simply that if he had wished to do so, he wouldn't have constructed it very differently. The leading article in *The Times* last week, "Taught to Fail", which seemed to bear the hand of Ronald Butt out of Stuart Sexton, carried both messages *ad nauseam*. The meat of the evidence for these two conclusions lay in the wholly misleading way in which the exam results were presented.

I am happy to report that Eric Bolton and Sir Keith have now had second thoughts. Before the report was published, Haringey officials were given the opportunity of seeing it at the DES - without, of course, being allowed to take it away for proper study. Doubts were raised then about the fairness of the statistics on exam performance and I understand that at a later meeting, when Sir Keith asked if anything could be done about the exam figures, Bolton told him that the report had already been printed.



Stuart Sexton

was too late as the report had already been printed.

So instead, Eric Bolton has written an extensive apology to Haringey containing the following sentiments: "I hope we are not going to get hung up on statistics". "True comparisons are impossible". "If we put our minds to it, we may also be able to steer public discussions from unwelcome concentration on statistics, which never tell the whole story". Sentiments which I have always echoed wholeheartedly. But it remains a very belated attempt to shut the stable door after the pantomime horse of Butt and Sexton has already bolted.

One set of statistics the inspectors did not publish... Gladesmore, one of the schools inspected, has 1,440 pupils. Of these, 400 are UK European, 518 West Indian, 170 Asian, 143 Greek Cypriot, 114 Turkish Cypriot, 41 African and 31 of various other European national origin. It is a reality to be borne in mind, when a school is being officially castigated for "failing" a Eurocentric examination conducted in the English language.

There were other nagging worries about the qualifications of the HMIs to inspect Haringey. One of the team, who lives in a pleasant shire, was heard to remark during the inspection that the HMIs were conducting a raffle.

The first prize was one week in Haringey; the second prize, two weeks in Haringey.

Now I shouldn't complain; I'm always bemoaning the inability of others, in particular Lady Cox and members of the Militant Tendency, to take a joke. But in Haringey, the joke did not exactly increase confidence that the report would be written with a full understanding of local problems. This is not to assert in any way that the HMI report is worthless. It tells many home truths. Clearly there are appalling problems in Haringey schools and they should not be brushed under the carpet. There had been complaints for some time that black youngsters in Haringey were getting a raw deal; this was one of the pressures that led to the HMIs coming in. One of the most worrying HMI revelations was, undoubtedly, teacher absenteeism. The response of this local teacher

unions - blaming the I.e.a.s. for "interference" - has been depressingly negative.

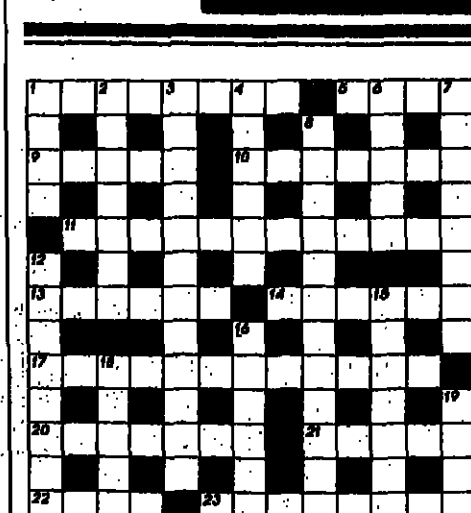
But the Secretary of State also has responsibilities. The current HMI investigations into deprived urban areas started in I.E.A. have passed through Haringey and are now focusing on Sheffield. When they are complete, one might expect Sir Keith and Mr Bolton to "do" something. In his evidence to the Select Committee last week Mr B said "it wasn't immediately

obvious what to do". Sir K suggested "teacher swaps" but "did not expect any action for some time".

Sir Keith was less than frank. The Government did take action this week. They introduced strict, legal controls by "ratecapping" - over the amount of money that I.E.A., Haringey and Sheffield can spend on education in future. It is a curious way of boosting teacher morale and educational standards.

Christopher Price

No 162 CROSSWORD by Rufus



Down

- 1 Applied cosmetics from Holland? (4)
- 2 It was plain to early American writers (7)
- 3 The cause for a two-day wait? (9,3)
- 4 Alien apparently out of hearing (6)
- 5 Famous, Arabian doctor in the money (5)
- 6 Intimation to end union trouble (8)
- 7 Antagonism from the Roman Capitol (12)
- 8 Transaction which is without credit (4,4)
- 9 Proceeds in an intriguing direction (7)
- 10 Was in which Spencer took live (6)
- 11 In time clocks improve (5)
- 12 His vicar was always ready to accept a sovereign (4)

Solution to puzzle No 161

Across

- 1 Used to be in a job (8)
- 2 A case for a sempstress (4)
- 3 A backwater that's far from sleepy (5)
- 4 They enjoy rows with friends and rivals (7)
- 5 Open nigger - by gum! (12)
- 6 Exact payment for something on another's account (6)
- 7 Bluff king and his successor brought to a temporary stop (6)
- 8 Unslights by Cupid, perhaps, could be fatal (5,7)
- 9 Mean to declare a woman's secret (7)
- 10 Victor loses his head in the bull ring (5)
- 11 Completes parts of a game of bowls (4)
- 12 Supports and swells instructions (6,2)

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Cash bait may split I.e.a.s. opposing NAFE takeover

by Mark Jackson

Manpower Services Commission chiefs are thinking of offering extra money to councils willing to desert the local authority front against the Government's move to take control of a key part of college funding. The money would come from funds taken away from neighbouring authorities.

This is seen as a last resort if the local authorities maintain their refusal to cooperate in the arrangements under which they will have to draw part of the money for work-related non-advanced further education through the MSC instead of getting it in their rate support grant.

Ministers and Mr David Young, the Commission's chairman, are waiting to see whether the authorities' resistance will weaken now that their treasurers have received details of how much money is being deducted from their grant next year (1985/6). The figures were sent to them last week and the deductions - set out under the heading "NAFE adjustment" - ranged, in the case of the counties, from £720,000 for the Isle of Wight to £2,124,000 for Hampshire (see page 8).

Meanwhile, Mr Young has denied that the Commission has any intention of trying to take a share in the control of the whole of non-advanced further education. Suspicions that this is the Commission's aim have been triggered by Mr Young's offer to the Association of County Councils of a deal under which he would give back to each authority the money deducted from its grant in return for allowing the MSC to become involved in all its work-related NAFE.

News of the proposal, reported by the TES after it had been angrily rejected by the association, stiffened

resistance to the Government's plans at the Council of Local Education Authorities' conference a fortnight ago, and the conference reaffirmed its united opposition to them.

On Friday, Mr Young claimed that the idea of such a deal came from the ACC itself. "I was taking up a proposal that the ACC made to us. I referred the proposal back to them suggesting we should see how it worked for a year."

Mr Young said he wrote putting his terms to Mr Philip Merridale, the ACC's education chairman, after a meeting between Mr Gordon Cunningham, the association's education secretary, and Mr Roger Dawe, head of the MSC's training division, had worked out the details. Mr Merridale had replied saying it was acceptable.

Mr Young said he had only just seen a letter which had been written by Mr Cunningham to chief education officers, saying that the offer had been rejected and drawing attention to the proposal involving the MSC in all work-related NAFE planning.

The TES report (which was based on the letter) was unhelpful, Mr Young said. "There is no way in which we have ambitions on all of NAFE," he claimed.

But the ACC says that there are crucial differences between their proposal and the terms which Mr Young offered.

The requirement for the authorities to obtain MSC approval for all projects to be funded from the MSC-channelled money would put the Commission's officials in a much stronger position in discussions over the rest of the colleges' work, although the ACC might have been reluctantly prepared to accept this.

Judge to rule on PAT rights case

by Richard Garner

A High Court judge will rule in the autumn whether teachers' leaders must allow the 26,000-strong Professional Association of Teachers the right to sit on the key sub-committees of the pay negotiating body.

PAT was given a seat on the main teachers' panel of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates pay, by Mr Mark Cartledge, then Conservative Education Secretary, three years ago.

However, the teachers' panel, which has an inbuilt majority for the National Union of Teachers, has refused to recognize it on the committee's main sub-committees, the one dealing with the crucial salary restructuring talks and one compiling background information on pay.

Now PAT has received leave to apply for a Writ of Mandamus, in the High Court, which requires the Burnham Committee to reach a decision

over whether it should be represented on the sub-committees and asking the judge to rule that it should be given a seat as a right on all sub-committees of Burnham.

PAT believes that, as the Burnham Committee is a legally constituted body sanctioned by Act of Parliament, the decision of the Education Secretary to recognize it means it should be given equal status to all the other bodies.

Three Sheffield University lecturers question the true relationship between education spending and results.

Once a teacher Mary Whitehouse looks back on her classroom career.

Cyclo-style Birmingham's wheeled adventure park for inner city kids (picture).

David Lister talks to Professor Richard Hogarth who retires next month.

Office practice textbooks 17-23



Famous five: a team of Aberdeen teenagers beat 150 other groups from throughout the United Kingdom to win the title "Youth Trainees of the Year" in the final of the competition held last week in London. The five - (from the left) Yvonne Anderson, Steven Matthew, Neil Thomson, Kathryn Cameron and Anita Bruce - have won a trip to the United States. The trainees were on a scheme managed by Scots, the Scottish Offshore Training Association. They were placed with four oil companies and did off-the-job training at Aberdeen College of Commerce. In the final they had to make a presentation on setting up an oil company.

You think you've got problems...

by John O'Leary

The teachers' unions might not admit it to the arbitration panel, but it seems their members' financial plight pales into insignificance compared with that facing teachers elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

Ministers meeting in Cyprus last week found there was widespread reluctance on the part of graduates to go into teaching because of low pay, poor conditions and better opportunities elsewhere. Governments had allowed teachers' salaries to be eroded by inflation.

Professor Peter Williams, the new head of the Commonwealth Secretariat's education programme, claimed that this, more than any other process, had enabled governments to "get by".

"In the most traumatic situations teachers fall to get paid at all for several months in succession: and their pay is in currency debased by the amount of inflation," wrote Professor Williams. Commonwealth Conference page 11.

Mixed groups put girls off technology

by Hilary Wilce

Workshop experience in mixed groups can put girls off technology and technological careers, according to experimental work done in Coventry. When pupils from Sidney Stringer School took part in a technology project, working in a local training workshop, the girls in the mixed group showed a much lower interest in the subject afterwards than did either the girls who had not attended the workshop, or the girls who had been taught in the single-sex group.

The girls in the mixed group became dispirited and inhibited when working with boys, who tended to have greater prior knowledge and skills, and often switched off, while the girls in the single-sex group appeared to progress more confidently, learning new skills at their own rate and gaining a greater sense of achievement.

Yet the workshop instructors much preferred mixed teaching groups. One instructor, asked to take the girls-only group, found it difficult to get work out of them.

"Rights from Monday morning, the girls were fidgety and wanted to move around," he said. "They didn't like this and they didn't like that... I'd plump for mixed groups, you get the help between boys and girls. The girls pick things up."

The researcher, Ms Val Millman, of Coventry's DES 14-16 Special Project team, noted that the environment of the workshop, which caters mainly for unemployed adults, appeared to have a great impact on all the pupils. Boys had welcomed the chance to put on overalls, get their hands dirty

and become part of the male adult world. But girls found themselves taught between the skills and activities demanded by the course, and the adult female qualities they felt obliged to show in this older world.

"You've got to be prepared to get your hands dirty in this type of work, young lady!" contains a contradiction of which many instructors are totally unaware, and which they continually reinforce," Ms Millman points out in a booklet outlining the project.

"A male instructor who has female pin-ups in his office, who entertains his male pupils with sexist jokes and generally fails to take his female pupils' interests seriously should not be surprised to find that girls would prefer to spend their time following a different course."

Ms Millman suggests that in workshop teaching there should never be fewer than two girls to a group, and that instructors need to find ways of ensuring the boys in a group do not impede the girls' progress.

One observation from the project - that girls appear more interested in the social element of projects than boys, but far less interested in technological careers - underlines work done by the Girls and Technology Education project (GATE), at Chelsea College, London University.

Teaching Technology to Girls by Val Millman. Available from Elm Bank Teachers' Centre, Mile Lane, Coventry CV1 2LQ. Price £1 plus 60p postage.

Arts/Books

Katya Watter on the under-appreciated historical strength of Georgette Heyer; Lynne Truss on Channel 4's *Playing Shakespeare*; Anne FitzGerald on the European Children's Drama Festival in Switzerland; John James on the theatre; Michael Clarke on children's art at the Tate; Tom Corfe on local history; Literary competition; Children's literature.

Resources/Media

Bill Hicks on "The Traveller's Dream", part of Whitechapel Art Gallery's artists in schools scheme; Victoria Neumark on the British Museum's "Ancient Olympic Games"; and Jan Cumming on the launch of a modern technology bus; plus reviews of Channel 4's *Trak Trax*, *A Full Life* and Sebastian Coe: Born to Run.

24-25

Forty years on...

It is just 40 years this week since the 1944 Education Act received the Royal Assent. Though amended and augmented by 20 Education Acts in the meantime, it remains the "master" Act which governs the education system, defines the powers of the Secretary of State and the local education authorities and sets out the parameters of educational development in England and Wales.

Anything in these islands which is 40 years old is likely to be either revered or vilified simply for being old enough to become a tradition or, alternatively, worn out. The 1944 Act came to be regarded as a corner stone of the Welfare State in the quarter of a century which followed the end of the second World War—a welfare state which is now under attack from influential Conservative critics. It provided a legal framework for the reconstruction of the education system—primary, secondary and further—which was informed by a generous spirit which the new Right now holds to be wet and wimpy. The abolition of the narrow, class-based, concept of elementary education, and the definition of secondary education as a temporal stage of schooling open to all, opened up the possibility of wider opportunity for many. The abolition of fees in maintained secondary schools, and the provision for the payment of maintenance grants to students in post-secondary education, was intended to provide the basis for an education system in which access was not dependent upon parental income or family influence.

In practice, of course, these aims have not been achieved. This same education system has continued to reflect inequalities and social differences in the community at large. In the conditions created by the 1944 Education Act there was a large expansion, notably at the secondary level and in higher education. But this expansion failed to increase the proportion of working class children among those succeeding in the education business; rather the reverse.

The 1944 Act itself gave no definition of the content of secondary education. The initial assumptions favoured a bipartite or tripartite system, but the Act also permitted the creation of comprehensive schools. The absence of prescription permitted change to take place piecemeal; it also inhibited the implementation of Labour's comprehensive policies, occasioning eventually the 1976 Act and its repeal in 1979. Because the Act was flexible, the policy could be brought in by persuasion but 20 years after Anthony Crosland's Circular 1065, there are still pockets of English education which remain un-reorganized. Had the comprehensive issue been settled by legislation in the mid-1960s, there might

have been a willingness to consider seriously the curriculum as well as the organization of the comprehensive school, and the present curriculum debate might have been brought forward 20 years. On the other hand—and perhaps more likely—it might all have got bogged down in the parliamentary process, and, given the propensity of successive governments to repeal the acts of their predecessors, the secondary schools might have had an even worse time of it than they have actually had.

Do we need a new master Act now? The answer must surely be: only if there is a major shift in public education policy which cannot be undertaken within the framework of the present Act. A new Act would only make sense if there were a new set of priorities, demanding new legal powers, and the political and economic determination which would make legislative action the necessary outcome, not the starting point, of policy.

It is not difficult to pinpoint the issues which might be thought to require legal review if there were impetus behind a new movement for reform. Relations between local and central government: the legal provisions which distribute power between the local education authorities and the Department of Education and Science will certainly need to be reviewed if the present shambles of local government finance breaks down. This is not the same as saying that the DES must be given absolute power to boss the local authorities. It does suggest a financial arrangement for education, outside the Rate Support Grant, and this would certainly entail redefining the power balance. The enforcement provisions of the 1944 Act have proved ineffective.

Pre-school: the present legal position is tolerable only because there is very little new pre-school provision coming into use. A government which tried to integrate all forms of pre-school activity (including nursery schools and classes) into a comprehensive service for families with young children, would certainly need to clarify the law and lay well-defined legal duties on local authorities. But, here again, such legislation pre-supposes, first, a policy and second, a financial commitment. No government is going to legislate unless it believes it can afford to satisfy the demand which legislation would create. 16 to 19 tertiary: it is becoming quite obvious that some sort of coherent over-arching policy is needed for all the competing schemes in school, FE college, YTS, employment and unemployment, for the 16 to 19s and that this would cut across the separate bailiwicks of education, the Manpower Services Commission, and the Department of Health and Social Security. It would take in industrial training as well as education; educational maintenance allo-

wances as well as allowances paid by the MSC and the DHSS. It would try for a third time to do what H A L Fisher failed to do with his day continuation colleges and R A Butler with his county colleges—and not in the context of education alone, but across the whole spectrum of activities undertaken by these age-groups. In this matter, too, the costs are great, but many of them are already incurred on a piecemeal basis: what is missing in the conceptual framework which would have to underlie new legislation.

Religious Settlement: Finally, there are the questions about the 1944 religious settlement which are posed by the ethnic diversity of modern Britain. The 1944 Act's most obvious achievement was the burying of the religious hatchet. It was Butler's patient horse-trading with the Roman Catholics and the Anglicans on church school matters which cleared the way for the other far-reaching developments. It is doubtful if any serious politicians will mount an early frontal attack on the legal basis of the voluntary schools and the privileges they enjoy notwithstanding the undoubted difficulties which have been experienced, particularly in the cities, in the face of falling rolls. What might challenge this profound political instinct not to stir up the denominational hornet's nest, could be the possible use of the present legislation to generate Muslim voluntary schools and schools for other "new" religious groups.

As things now stand, even though the objections to religious separatism are obvious and the Northern Ireland analogies arouse strong feelings, it is difficult to see how new voluntary schools could be refused Muslim fundamentalists without appearing to adopt race-related double standards. The only way to counter such an accusation while at the same time resisting the fragmentation of the system on ethnic lines, would be to look again at the whole religious settlement. But even then it would be a great mistake to underestimate the strength of the traditions on which the voluntary schools draw and the virtues of the pluralism for which they stand.

There is, of course, another more radical case for a new Act, arising not from a new definition of the legal relationship between the central government and the local authorities, but from the need to enshrine in an Act, for the first time, legally enforceable rights for parents and citizens. This would involve a breach with the legal tradition on which the 1870, 1902, 1918 and 1944 Acts were based. The civil servants and local government officers would hate it. So, too, would the teachers. But it would represent the logical development of current ideas about parental rights: without some legal muscle, there is precious little to the rhetoric.

COMMENT

Taking to the boats

HM Inspectorate's new report on slow learners and less successful pupils in secondary schools (TES, July 27) should be a helpful one for schools that want to rethink their practice with pupils with either general or specific learning difficulties.

Overall, it shows a rather depressing picture. Many of the schools visited seemed to have no systems for making sure that pupils were making progress in learning, or, if they obviously were not, what their particular difficulties were.

Marking and records and reports were so imprecise that they were no help to anyone—teachers, pupils, or parents. Pastoral systems were concerned with crisis management, not with making sure that reasonably well-behaved, but academically unsuccessful, pupils were getting the help they deserved.

Their report suggests that organizational solutions—setting, withdrawal and so on—are less important than getting staff together to establish what they are trying to teach, what individual pupils' particular difficulties are, and which teaching methods and materials are most likely to help them.

HM Inspectorate wants more schools to follow the example of those who have brought remedial teaching out of the ghetto (often a very dreary ghetto with drab accommodation and an impoverished curriculum) and used remedial teachers as advisers to subject departments, helping to devise teaching strategies and suitable resources for slow learners.

Moreover, the Inspectors suggest that the best work of all, sometimes producing "spectacular" results, comes when keen teachers get together and—using an unfashionable 1960s phrase—do their own thing, inventing courses based on the teachers' individual skills which allow students to talk, think, make choices, follow their interests, and take responsibility. The inspectors become quite lyrical about a boat-building course in one school. At this point one begins to wonder about the needs of the rest of the pupils—the 70, or 60, or 50 per cent in most schools who have what the report describes as "the ability to memorize large amounts of material even if they haven't understood it", and therefore "succeed" at school.

Happily, the difficulties of the "bottom 40 per cent" are now getting much more exposure than they were in 1980-82, when the Inspectors did this survey. And it's possible to argue that the emphasis on specific



criteria, could encourage all teachers to analyse their teaching and methods to the way that the report suggests bringing the best results.

But given the confusion of the messages coming from the top—protect Q-level standards, bring in more practical work, change your teaching methods, continue to get as many pupils as possible through traditional content-loaded syllabuses—it's more likely that the new criteria will lead to even more teaching to the tests, and make it even more difficult for boat-building teachers to cash in on their own enthusiasms.

no comment

"The calculation for each authority is as follows: Weight = A x (B) 0.1 (0.1 is above the line) where A = the amount in cash by which the estimated expenditure of an authority exceeds its current expenditure guideline, and B = the percentage which A bears to the authority's current expenditure guideline. B is raised by the power (0.1) to achieve a graduation of the penalties."

Second opinion

Sir Keith's thumbs down for youth

The Thompson report on the youth service appeared some 20 months ago in conditions of reducing resources and narrowing ideas about the purposes of adolescent education. It offered youth workers a little extra leverage at policy-making by reasserting their traditional commitment to young people's overall personal development and insisting that political education should have a place within this.

However, in the present political climate it also offered some remarkable hostages to fortune. For example, it pinned enormous faith on impossible cost effectiveness, to be achieved mainly through tougher "top-down" management. And despite passing denials, it left the impression that resources, far from being a problem, were at an estimated £1,000m a year, a quite plentiful.

The price of this convincing Government assumptions in order to produce a "realistic" document having to be paid—and in full, last month, Sir Keith Joseph's belated response to the report uncompromisingly turned it to its own doctrinaire ends. He rejected its call for a stronger legislative base for the youth service even though the few vague phrases in the 1944 Act on which it still relies, in the age of the rate-cap and the death competition among the state services, leave it wholly exposed. The national youth advisory council which he agreed to establish is to be small and "experimental", as yet has no terms of reference or resources, and the smacks of cynical tokenism. Even the money made available for "innovatory" training for part-timers and volunteers seems tainted when set alongside his rejection ("no financial grounds") of Thompson's recommendation of mandatory grants for full-time youth work students, some 10 per cent of whom cannot afford to take up course places.

The naivety of the Thompson strategy of appealing rather than boldly confronting dominant government assumptions has thus now been fully exposed. Instead of a youth service funded at a high level for work the report called, we have Sir Keith's "draft circular, advising local authorities to appraise carefully their funding of the statutory youth service relative to other claims on their total expenditure" and thereby all but inviting them to reduce that funding still further. L.e.s.s. attention is drawn to an earlier circular (6/82) which in effect encouraged them to deliver up their youth service to the Youth Training Scheme.

Sir Keith's message is therefore unambiguous. In so far as "youth work" is now to get state sponsorship, the MSC will, as in so many other educational spheres, be the chosen route for providing this. The education-based youth service for which Sir Keith is responsible, rooted as it is in now discredited ideas about social education and person-centred practice, can expect less and less backing from the government.

Even at its most buoyant, the youth service has hardly been a major force for young people's liberation. None the less, it has often taken them to the world of the world seriously. It has tried to accustom them to their own critical reactions to their experience, may be legitimate, even healthy, and allowed that fun might actually be okay. Sir Keith's sterile pronouncements again demonstrate that, as the MSC takes its rapid employment march to a grey dominance, no defence of such basic educational principles can be expected from the DES.

Bernard Davies

Bernard Davies is a senior lecturer in applied social studies at Warwick.



Timothy Evans stands before the monument in Horse Guards Parade that honours the Guards officers killed in the Great War. "I am interested in the regiments that defend the peace," he says.

Ex-pupil alleges political bias at his old school

by Nick Wood

Pimlico School, the showpiece London comprehensive with 1,500 pupils, figures prominently in a dossier alleging political bias in schools which has been handed to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary.

A copy of the dossier, drawn up by Lady Olga Maitland, chairman of Women and Families for Defence, has been passed to The TES.

Much of the evidence is sketchy and anecdotal, necessarily so, says Lady Maitland, because children and parents are afraid to speak out publicly for fear of damaging their prospects at school.

Few of the 13 case histories summarized in the dossier contain sufficient detail for a ready check on their authenticity, a task that Sir Keith has passed to his officials.

Pimlico is the exception, largely because Mr Timothy Evans, aged 19, who left the school this summer after seven years as a pupil, has given a detailed account of how staff bring their own political views into the classroom leading to a left-wing bias in the school.

This week he spoke to The TES, spelling out the message he has already given Sir Keith at a private meeting. Mr Evans has just taken A levels in art, modern history and government and politics. He hopes to read politics at Newcastle University, and since the age of 16 he has been a member of the Putney Young Conservatives.

His classmates, who seem as responsible as the staff for many of the incidents which he complains of, elected him chairman of the school. He said that political indoctrination at Pimlico took two forms—a covert "cultural indoctrination" that manifested itself through teachers encouraging pupils to think of demonstrated against nuclear weapons as good things and spending cuts as bad things for instance, and more overt propaganda in class or school assemblies.

He gave examples of what he meant. "Teachers are people who look up to you. If your teacher says he's going on a CND demonstration, you'd probably follow him. The message you get is CND equals peace."

All over the school there would be CND stickers and notices and there would be a youth CND group organized by the kids.

In October 1982, a visiting theatre group put on a play for first and second years about a group of British schoolchildren visiting Moscow. Mr Evans said the cost painted the

picture of the children having a wonderful time in a happy and contented society.

The audience enthusiastically stamped their feet to the strains of the Red Army choir singing the "Internationale", he said.

"The aim was to take the piss out of British propaganda about 'bogs in all the hotel bedrooms'. At no time was there any mention of the KGB to give it balance", he said.

As one of the few pupils who found himself out of step with the views of any of his classmates and teachers and openly espoused Conservative views, Mr Evans said he was branded a freak.

"Throughout the school, the words 'Conservative' and 'fascist' were synonymous."

His A level politics and history lessons were, he felt, heavily biased. They took place in a department made up of eight or nine teachers all of whom were openly left-wing. He was taught by a man who always wore a CND badge and made no secret of his political leanings, he said.

Modern history concentrated on America's involvement in Korea, Vietnam and Central America and, according to him, made only passing reference to "the horrors of the Communist block—the 20 million killed under Stalin".

Timothy Evans might sound bitter about his time at what he has dubbed the "CND school". He isn't. He said he enjoyed his time at Pimlico, got a good academic education with the help of first-class facilities and made a lot of friends, even among those with whom he was at political loggerheads.

A representative of the Inner London Education Authority said that Mr Bill Stubbs, the director of education, had ordered an inquiry into the allegations.



Lady Olga Maitland

NEWS

Richard Garner reports from the Professional Association of Teachers' conference in Edinburgh

Pay arbitrators warned

Mr Peter Dawson, PAT general secretary, and a member of the teachers' panel of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates pay, said a "significant section" of the teachers' submission to the arbitrators gave an "arguable justification" of why teachers went on strike this summer.

The arbitration hearing, set in the third week in August, will consider the employers' offer of a 4.5 per cent increase and the teachers' claim for a substantial rise to move towards proper professional salary level. "No mention is made in the draft document of anyone being reluctant to take industrial action," Mr Dawson told the conference. "The picture is drawn of a profession splendidly united in bringing chaos to schools."

Mr Dawson added: "Is a submission to arbitrators really a proper place for writing a defence of disruption? The answer is no, of course not. You don't go to the peacemaker and argue the case for warfare."

"Why include an account of how teachers brought education to a halt? The answer is to serve as a warning to the arbitrators of what will happen if they don't come up with the right award."

Mr Dawson went on to attack Mr Philip Merridale, leader of the management side during the pay negotiations and chairman of Conservative-controlled Hampshire County Council's education committee.

"The local authorities and the government representatives on Burnham carry a heavy share of the blame for what has occurred this year," he said. He cited a statement made during the negotiations by Mr Merridale that "justice and morality are neither here nor there."

"Should someone with that view of the world be involved in the work of a national negotiating body whose proceedings affect the welfare of children?" he asked. "I find the fact that no-one else has asked that question an interesting if sad comment on the state of things."

However, Mr Dawson acknowledged that the disruption of schools by teachers had achieved its purpose by "persuading local authorities to do

disruption? Does anyone imagine that schools have yet experienced more than a hint of the disasters that some have in mind?"

Mr Dawson concluded: "The troubles of 1984 may well turn out to be, and may indeed have been intended as, nothing more than a practice run for future disturbances of the education system."

"There is nothing at all for any teacher to be pleased about in reviewing recent events. Anyone who thinks the onward march of militancy is something to celebrate doesn't really understand what is happening. We have been taken a further step down the road to professional disaster."

Earlier, referring to the salary structure talks, Mr Dawson warned that if Sir Keith Joseph attempted to introduce strict minimum working hours for teachers he could end up with a "layabouts charter."

Mr Dawson said the proper approach would be to expect teachers to do all they possibly could to complete the education of the whole child. For that they deserved "general professional payment."

But he warned: "We do not want a situation where so much as an hour extra is to be charged for running the chess club or umpiring a cricket match. If minimum hours are laid down they will, for some teachers, become maximum hours and you immediately have layabouts charter."

More reports next week

what they should have done in the first place."

"Perhaps you would rather not believe that, but it cannot be ignored or denied," he said. "Whether we want to know it or not, we have to face the fact that bringing education to a halt did change the minds, though I suspect not the hearts, of local education authorities in recent weeks."

He warned: "There is nothing at all to be pleased about in that. What is the profession going to be asked to do in the next act of the developing drama of

Jenkins calls for more access to FE

Britain should adopt a European-style system of providing access to further education or training for all its 16-18 year olds, Mr Roy Jenkins, founder of the Social Democratic Party, told the conference.

Mr Jenkins, who is MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, said: "I would like to see a system where all 16-18 year olds have access to some sort of further education or training, as happens in Germany, with grants to help them with whatever course they are pursuing."

Mr Jenkins also called for a modest allowance of extra money to be injected into education spending which would be used to tackle the state of school buildings and their maintenance problems.

He also singled out cuts in remedial education for special attack, saying

"While riots, vandalism, and crime cannot be blamed on our teachers they can be attributed more generally to the social decay in inner cities of which the schools are a very important part," he said.

"For children born into families where the father works only intermittently, where their elder brothers and sisters leave school to join the dole queue and where the unemployment rate in their own neighbourhood is perhaps as high as 50 per cent, decaying school buildings, overworked teachers and inadequate facilities merely increase the sense of alienation."

He also singled out cuts in remedial education for special attack, saying

they served to give little future prospect to children who had not achieved basic literacy or numeracy skills by the age of 112.

"Cuts in such services at a time when hundreds of qualified primary teachers are unable to find jobs show a callousness both towards the unemployed teachers and towards the pupils who so badly need remedial help," he added.

Mr Jenkins also emphasised the SDP's keenness to introduce no strike agreements for employees in key areas of the public sector, including teaching as revealed in The TES last month. Such an agreement has long been advocated by PAT.

Firm line on discipline

by Biddy Passmore

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has underlined his determination to let governors have the last word on discipline in their school by refusing to approve changes in articles of government proposed by Manchester and Newcastle.

The change requested by the two councils would have made the governors' responsibility for the "general direction of the conduct of the school" provisional on their doing so in a way consistent with the education authority's policy. This would have given the two Labour-controlled councils power to impose a general ban on corporal punishment over the heads of governing bodies.

But Sir Keith has now refused to sanction the amendment, saying it would be inconsistent with the Green Paper on governing bodies he issued on May 1. This said that local authorities had no right to interfere with the discipline of governing bodies and over-ride governing bodies and headteachers.

Tenure move

Universities are to be forced by law to end tenure for all their new academic recruits. Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, told the Commons on Wednesday he would introduce the necessary legislation as soon as Parliamentary time allowed.

His aim is to ensure that all universities have the right to sack academics appointed after a certain date. "For reasons of redundancy or financial exigency."

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A series of recent studies have claimed that they could establish a simple, direct relationship between educational expenditure, on the one hand, and educational outcomes, measured in terms of examination results, on the other. In this respect, *Value for Money* by Rodney Lord, currently a special adviser to the Treasury, merely repeats earlier findings (TES, 6 July). Mr Lord, however, goes further. He treats the absence of such a relationship as sufficient cause to speculate on the "efficiency" and "effectiveness" of local education authorities, both in general and in particular - Newcastle, among others, is singled out for criticism.

We agree with Mr Lord that it is hard to discern an overall pattern. But the extent of our disagreement with him is perhaps apparent if we note that out of the 30 or so English authorities on which he comments, favourably or otherwise, we disagree with his assessment of the performance of at least 20. Our research suggests that Newcastle is, if anything, an authority that is performing rather well.

At the heart of the problem of how one compares one authority's performance with another's is the question whether like is being compared with like. Fortunately, there are few people who still believe that the national average is the most relevant basis for comparison. The decision of the Department of Education and Science two years ago to publish a statistical grouping of authorities according to the degree of social disadvantage they experienced, in terms of six indicators, was a notable step forward; it was these groupings which Mr Lord employed. But, as both the DES and our own subsequent analyses have shown, it was barely sufficient. Mr Lord himself asks whether Richmond is really more disadvantaged than Gateshead, as the DES analysis suggests. Yet he then proceeds to ignore his own caveat. Rochdale and Wigan end up in the same group for the purposes of comparison as Devon and Cornwall.

Our earlier research has shown how the DES groupings cannot be treated as more than a starting point for such comparative purposes and how measures of disadvantage need to be complemented by measures of social advantage, especially if differences in exam results are to be explained. Our latest research suggests that if one wants to ensure that like is being compared with like, then three measures, from among the rather limited

Before a relationship between spending and results can be established, authorities must determine how much is to be directed towards exam success, say David Jesson, John Gray and Ben Jones.

Measure for measure

statistical data currently available, are essential.

These are, for each authority, the percentages of pupils:

- from socially advantaged backgrounds (as measured by those with parents in professional and managerial occupations);
- from non-white backgrounds;
- attending independent schools.

We have known about the importance of the first two measures for some time, but it is only recently that our suspicions about the explanatory power of the third have been confirmed.

Mr Lord's measures of social disadvantage jointly explain around half of the variation in exam results between local authorities, when they are entered into a regression analysis, leaving the remaining half to be explained by other factors. Supplementing these data with our measure of social advantage, we raised the variation explained to around 70 per cent. But we found that another sizeable increment could be obtained from using the percentages of pupils attending independent schools.

An enduring weakness of all the comparative analyses of local education authority performance conducted to date has been that while their measures of outcomes (exam results) have applied only to those leaving state-maintained schools, their measures of local authorities' social composition have applied to all, regardless of whether they have attended independent or state schools. In authorities where only 1 or 2 per cent attend the former schools, this is unlikely to distort the overall picture, but in other cases it can be quite important. DES estimates suggest that in the IEA and Newcastle, for example, over 10 per cent attend independent schools; in Surrey nearly 15 per cent; and in Richmond almost 25 per cent. There is also a strong underlying association. The more middle class an authority, the higher the percentage who are likely to be at independent schools ($r=0.7$).

While we did not know the actual exam results of independent school pupils in each authority, we assumed that many (but not perhaps all) would

obtain five or more O level passes. We therefore explored a number of different possibilities, adding to each authority's results an allowance for the performance of independent school pupils.

The overall effects of these adjustments were quite dramatic. We found that we could now explain over 80 per cent of the variation in results between authorities. Equally importantly, we were obliged to re-examine our views of a number of authorities which have traditionally been criticized for "under-performing".

None the less, like Mr Lord, we still found that expenditure was not straightforwardly related to performance. This led us to look more closely at the figures for secondary school expenditure and their correlates.

We found, for example, that costs were higher where areas were subject to more rapid decline in secondary school rolls; and they were lower where a substantial proportion of secondary school-age children were taught in 9 to 13 (or older) middle schools. Neither of these factors was explicitly considered by Mr Lord. Overriding these concerns, however, was our discovery that expenditure was highest in those areas with the largest and the smallest middle class populations. Such complexities do not lend themselves readily to the statistical procedures that have hitherto been employed.

Several other possible reasons why simple relationships between expenditure and results were not emerging suggested themselves. We wondered whether the use of data aggregated to the level of the local authority was concealing relationships which existed at the level of the individual school. And also whether the absence of "market forces" in the public sector was a factor.

We therefore turned our attention to a sample of English independent schools for whom data were available for the year in question. For the purposes of comparison we confined our analysis to those 325 schools taking day pupils which did not specialize in

providing for pupils with learning difficulties.

The average expenditure per pupil in even the top 10 per cent of "spending" local authorities was less than the day fees charged by 90 per cent of the independent schools. Although schools which charged more had better pupil-teacher ratios ($r=-0.62$), we could find no obvious relationship between fees charged and pupil-teacher ratios on the one hand, and the number of A level passes per pupil on the other ($r=-0.35$ and $r=-0.25$ respectively).

The absence of simple relationships in both public and private sectors forces us to re-examine some of Mr Lord's initial premises. The most obvious weakness in the assumption he was prepared to make was that all local authorities are equally committed to maximizing examination success and that the vast bulk of secondary school expenditure is devoted to this single aim. Even in the most favoured areas the examination results that form the substance of Lord's main argument, it is clearly unwise to assume that the other 50 per cent or more are unimportant.

To discover a relationship between results on the one hand and expenditure on the other, one needs to know first what proportion of expenditure is directed to this objective. Even a passing acquaintance with the workings of local authorities and the schools suggests it is implausible to postulate such single-minded devotion. Efforts to assist lower-achieving children with their reading, for example, are rarely recorded in examination results. Yet this is an assumed to which Mr Lord must be committed if he wants to speculate on the "effectiveness" of individual authorities and the "effectiveness with which they apply resources to achieve a good education". He might equally well have concluded that they differ widely in their definitions of what counts as "acceptable quality" and their willingness to commit resources to achievement. Recent reports from the Inspectorate would have supported him in this view.

The questions Mr Lord raises are important ones to policy-makers of all persuasions, but the first priority must be to improve the accounting procedures - accountability can follow later.

The authors are all members of the Division of Education at Sheffield University.

Mike Durham on the angry response of a pressure group to the critical report on Haringey schools

Black parents accuse HMI of being racist

A black parents' action group in Haringey claims the HMI report on the borough is racist, and has issued a call to black parents to "mobilize" and take over schools.

The group's statement has puzzled local education authority figures, who felt the Inspectorate's criticisms would have been supported by ethnic minority groups.

The Haringey Black Pressure Group on Education says HMI is wrong to find evidence of good multicultural teaching, happy race relations and an open-schools policy towards black parents.

The group states: "The education time bomb in Haringey schools has gone off. Time has run out for white people to improve the education system for the benefit of black children."

"We must now mobilize in great numbers to take over the schools in Haringey, especially in areas where our children form the majority in schools."

Mr Paul Boyd, a spokesman for the group, said black parents did not quarrel with the Inspectorate's findings on exam results. The pressure group had been saying the same thing for some time.

Mr Boyd claimed the Inspectors had deliberately misrepresented the state of race relations and multicultural teaching in the borough. "They are saying in essence that there is no racism in Haringey's schools. We say there is," he said.

The HMI report had set out to overturn all the claims being made by the pressure group, he claimed. The group says that black pupils are the victims of racism in Haringey schools.

Last year the group issued a strongly-worded manifesto calling for more open schools, more answerable to the community, with a reorganized curriculum and the retraining of all Haringey teachers.

According to Mr Boyd, "the campaign has been such an embarrassment to the authorities that they can find no alternative but to deny the facts." He charged the Inspectorate as belonging to the same "institution".

The group describes the HMI report as "a prophetic warning to the black community in Haringey". Mr Boyd added: "We can see a situation arising where the whole frustration will actually blow up in the faces of the people in the institution. There will come a time when they won't be able to control it."

However, the group has no immediate plans to "take over" or occupy any schools in Haringey, Mr Boyd said. Various ideas had been discussed and the group was urging black parents to get together.

"If the education authority won't listen, it would be up to the community to decide how to bring the schools under our control," he said.

The group is not seeking a meeting with the L.E.A. "at this stage". Mr Boyd said: "It's up to the community to decide how to move forward in terms of forcing the authority to do something. If the community persists, it will actually get something done."

Mrs Nicole Harrison, Labour education chairman of Haringey, said the group's claims, including an allegation that she had "called in" the Inspectors in order to refute their claims of racism, were "absolutely amazing".

She said: "I don't see the HMI report as a racist document at all. It's incredible. The black parents' group have been calling the L.E.A. racist for some time, but in fact the report showed we are not."

Mr Tony Lenney, Haringey's chief education officer, said: "The HMI report seemed reasonably positive about multicultural education and harmonious race relations, if nothing else."

On his frankly, we have got enough on our hands without tackling the crude assumption that our problem is all about racism. At this stage, giving things labels doesn't help. It's distressing because it doesn't take us any further."

Mr Lenney said there had been frequent meetings between the parents action group and Haringey education officers. Members of the HMI team interviewed members of the black pressure group during their visit to the borough.

Schools urged to run mother tongue classes

by Diane Spencer

The Government should encourage education authorities to pay for mother tongue classes, the Commission for Racial Equality says.

Community languages should be taught as part of the school curriculum. Education authorities should encourage schools to do this as part of their duty under the 1976 Race Relations Act to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations.

These recommendations are based on findings of a study of part-time Chinese language classes in London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Liverpool. But Ming Tsow, the author, says they are just as applicable to other language groups.

She found that 87 per cent of parents from Britain's Chinese community wanted Chinese to be taught at school; 48 per cent of children going to mother-tongue classes spoke Cantonese at home compared with 38 per cent who spoke mainly English.

Mother-tongue maintenance: a survey of part-time Chinese language classes, by Ming Tsow, is available, free, from the CRE, Elliot House, 10-12 Allington Street, London SW1E 5EH.

Retired managers 'could become careers teachers'

The Conservative Bow Group has suggested that business managers who retire early would make excellent part-time careers teacher for schools.

Schools should pick careers teachers with experience in industry, and many senior managers retiring at 55 would fit the bill, the group's industry committee said.

The idea is one of 20 "action points" put forward by the committee as a

means of ending the "mutual misunderstanding, distrust and even hostility between education and industry".

Companies are told it would be a good idea to invite the school head to the firm's offices. It would make them aware of the company's needs.

It is suggested that heads should "talk to the customer" more often and also meet local businessmen.

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County looks at ways to cut cost of travel

by Mike Durham

A full-scale inquiry into school transport plans in county areas is being carried out by Britain's fourth largest local authority, following concern about the cost of school buses.

Norfolk spends about £3m a year getting its pupils to and from school.

A study, to be published this autumn, is looking at such aspects of the county's school transport as tendering, route schedules, and computer-planned journeys.

But Mr Michael Edwards, chief education officer, denied that, I.E.A. was being "held to ransom" by private bus operators.

"It's true that, as in any rural area, it's difficult to find providers of school transport. On the other hand, a limited number of firms prepared to tender for

"But there is no suggestion of a cartel operating against the education authority."

The study is part of a long-term assessment of county transport facilities which Mr Edwards described as "like painting the Forth Bridge".

"We are always interested in finding ways of making it more efficient. We are a very spread-out county and transport is always on our minds."

The eventual report is expected to recommend tighter route scheduling, measures to avoid duplication of bus services, and staggering of school starting times to fit in with bus operators.

Meanwhile, the county has launched experiments which allow private money to be used to subsidize school buses with children's fares.

A school bus running between the Norfolk villages of Wells-by-the-Sea and Fakenham is being shared by up to a dozen adults. The service is advertised on local newspapers and the travellers pay a fare to the L.E.A.

A bus running between Norwich and Wroxham doubles up, too. It collects fare-paying adults first, then returns to make a similar trip for children on their way to school.

Mr Edwards said: "We are not aiming to make a profit. We are just hoping to reduce the council's subsidy to Eastern Counties bus company, and avoid school buses standing idle."

The experiments have been successful, and similar schemes may eventually be extended to other parts of the county.

Mr Edwards said: "We are not aiming to make a profit. We are just hoping to reduce the council's subsidy to Eastern Counties bus company, and avoid school buses standing idle."

Overseas rolls still fall

by Biddy Passmore

The number of overseas students taking higher education courses in Great Britain continued to fall last year and is now about a quarter down on the peak year of 1978-79. But the total was still 70 per cent higher than in 1971-72.

Numbers also fell in non-advanced further education, where the drop has been a staggering 72 per cent since the peak year of 1976-77 and the total is now even lower than it was at the start of the 1970s.

At both levels, however, the drop in numbers last autumn was much smaller than it had been in the year before.

These figures appear in the latest statistical bulletin from the Department of Education and Science, which gives definitive information about overseas students for the academic year 1982-83 and provisional figures for 1983-84.

It is provisionally estimated that there were 52,500 students from abroad at British universities, polytechnics and colleges in 1982-83. This was a 3 per cent reduction on the

1982-83 figure of 54,100. In higher education alone, the decline was also 3 per cent, to an estimated 44,600. But within this figure, university numbers rose by 2 per cent while enrolments in the public sector fell by 12 per cent (following a drop of nearly a quarter in first year students the year before).

At non-advanced level, entry figures for 1983-84 give a total of 7,900, only 4 per cent down on the previous year's total of 8,100 compared with a 27 per cent drop in 1982.

Countries sending the largest number of students to Britain in 1982-83 were Hong Kong, Nigeria and Malaysia, although first year enrolments from the latter two countries fell sharply. The largest falls were for India (48 per cent), Zimbabwe (54 per cent) and Sri Lanka (54 per cent).

But first year enrolments from other countries started to rise, by far the most striking example being the 57 per cent increase in the number of students from the Philippines (from 1,100 to 1,720).

Under-performing teachers no longer make a significant contribution to overall numbers of teachers additional to the 1982-83 figure of 11,000.

The group is not seeking a meeting with the L.E.A. "at this stage". Mr Boyd said: "It's up to the community to decide how to move forward in terms of forcing the authority to do something. If the community persists, it will actually get something done."

Mrs Nicole Harrison, Labour education chairman of Haringey, said the group's claims, including an allegation that she had "called in" the Inspectors in order to refute their claims of racism, were "absolutely amazing".

She said: "I don't see the HMI report as a racist document at all. It's incredible. The black parents' group have been calling the L.E.A. racist for some time, but in fact the report showed we are not."

Young children from broken homes benefit considerably in the long term if both parents cooperate over education and maintain links with schools.

This is one of the main findings of some new research based on 30 case studies of six to nine-year-olds from broken families.

The research, from the Child Care and Development Group at Cambridge University, involved interviews with teachers and heads as well as with parents and children.

Children who were judged by teachers to be well-adjusted socially and emotionally two years after the break-up turned out to be those whose parents had cooperated with each other and maintained contact with the schools even when they no longer lived with the children.

Many children experienced difficulty at school at the time of the separation but they readjusted over the following months. Two years after the change most children were functioning better than those whose parents remained married but who were in conflict.

Education was the most commonly discussed issue - after access - among estranged couples and some found they could agree; six out of 30 couples still attended school functions together and a further seven said they took turns at going to events.

At the same time schooling was sometimes a point of conflict between couples. Virtually all the non-custodial parents who were interviewed preferred to receive information about their children directly from the school but only 10 out of 30 custodial parents wanted their ex-partners to have that sort of direct contact with the school.

The authors, Jeni Riley and Mary Lund, say that, like children, teachers can find themselves caught in the middle, torn between the conflicting demands of parents. "Helping children hold that middle ground may be the best that schools can do for children when parents decide to part. To do so means not just giving children emotional support but also bringing procedural issues into line to deal with the variety of families that exist today."

All the headteachers in the study agreed that an increasing amount of their time was taken up with issues relating to families breaking up and parents divorcing. Many heads thought there should be standard guidelines on the contentious issue of record keeping for these children.

Twenty-nine parents out of 30 said they had told the head or class teacher



Picture: Gingerbread

Closer cooperation between parents and teachers can help children to adjust after divorce say Cambridge researchers.

Sarah Bayliss reports.

Mending the breaks

at the time of the separation and they assumed other teachers would be told. But only half the schools had a written description of the changes that had taken place.

The study suggests that there are good reasons for keeping a factual account of the changes in families on record. Names and addresses of natural parents and step parents should be kept on file as well as custody and access arrangements and any observed changes in the children's behaviour.

Written records based on guidelines may respect the privacy of the family more than information passed informally by word of mouth.

The authors say they expect divorced parents will make demands on schools in future. They quote the Booth Committee, set up by the Lord Chancellor's Office, which has suggested that joint custody should be granted to both natural parents unless

there is a clear reason not to do so.

In addition, a recent case in the Court of Appeal gave non-custodial parents rights regarding education. However, Judith Masson, a lecturer in law at the University of Leicester, interprets the judgment to mean that neither schools nor custodial parents are obliged to provide information to non-custodial parents. "It means that non-custodial parents can take the custodial parents to court over decisions," she said.

In a section on children's emotional needs, the researchers say teachers and other school staff can provide a much-needed sympathetic ear. One-third of custodial parents had never discussed the break-up with their children. "Unfortunately, most divorcing parents do not realize their children's desire to talk about the experience," says the report.

All the children in the study were

asked to write stories about what a little boy or girl would do at school after they had been told about their parents' divorce. Thirty-three per cent said the child would tell the teacher, 37 per cent said the child felt sad, cried or could not stop thinking about the divorce and 23 per cent said the child could not do his work. "Clearly from the child's viewpoint, distress about parents' separating will be shown in class and often teachers will be approached."

Compared with secondary teachers, primary teachers are at an advantage in having "close and sustained" contact with pupils. "If a child wishes to talk, simply listening to and validating his many feelings may be the most important part a teacher can play."

Not surprisingly, parents wanted contradictory things from schools. They wanted special consideration for their children, given the stress they

were under, but not undue attention drawn towards them. They were much less worried about the children's academic work than about their children's emotional reaction. They wanted teachers' opinions about children, especially when behaviour at school might be different from behaviour at home.

The small amount of dissatisfaction expressed about schools mainly concerned the portrayal by teachers of stereotype nuclear families which their children no longer fitted into. A few parents thought schools should be more aware of economic hardship and the availability of free lunches and grants for school trips.

Many parents recognized the support and understanding they could get from staff. One mother with two children said: "I was very lucky that they were both in classes with teachers I could talk to when it happened... I felt better for telling them how things were and they listened and were understanding."

In recent months a number of local authorities have responded to the Appeal Court judgment by extending rights to non-custodial parents. Last spring the Inner London Education Authority issued a circular to all heads saying that where non-custodial parents had asked to be kept informed, notes about the child's educational progress, including discipline matters, should be duplicated and sent.

Invitations to school activities such as plays and sports days should be sent and, in all cases, the custodial parent informed.

A non-custodial parent should also be able to discuss his or her child's progress at open evenings or by special appointment but it would be up to the parents to agree whether such discussions should be held with them jointly or separately.

If a request was received, a primary head should involve the non-custodial parent in the choice of secondary school but the onus rested on the parents jointly to agree on a school by the date required.

Schools Caught in the Middle: Educating the Children of Divorce by Jeni Riley and Mary Lund, Child Care and Development Group, University of Cambridge. A synopsis of their research is included in the Summer 1984 Journal of the National Association of Primary Education edited by David Clegg, Sedgemoor Manor Junior School, Parkway, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Appeal over places for musically gifted pupils

by Diane Spencer

A group of Norfolk parents are appealing to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, against an I.C.S. decision to send their musically gifted children to a high school without a choir or an orchestra.

Parents of ten of the pupils at Wroughton Middle School, Gorton-on-Sea near Great Yarmouth, want their children to go to Lynn Grove High School which has three choirs and an orchestra. The authority has allocated places for them instead at Claydon High School which has neither. Both of the schools have spare places.

One of the parents, Mr Howard Collins, claimed that Wroughton has

an excellent reputation for music. His daughter sang in the choir at the International Elstedford last month and she wants to continue singing and playing the piano in her next school.

Mr Bernard Farrant, the authority's public relations officer, said the I.C.S. was trying to achieve a balanced intake at both schools, which was why the independent appeals committee turned down their application.

The parents claim the authority is failing to keep the spirit of the 1980 Education Act which allows, where possible, parental choice of schools. They are appealing both to the Sir Keith and preparing a case for the ombudsman.

Parents win choice battle

by Biddy Passmore

Parents of two Oxford five-year-olds have won a fight to get them into the primary school of their choice - by keeping their children out of the unwanted school.

The reason for the victory, according to Oxfordshire county council, is that the delay meant the girls could be considered for entry in the next school year, when there will be four vacancies at the school they wanted.

But the parents say there were already two spare places last term. They feel the council's apparent change of heart is the result of a High Court decision giving them leave to apply for a judicial review of the case.

Helen Holder and Laura Waters were kept at home for a term by their parents after the council refused to let them start in April at Headington

Quarry Church of England First School.

The children live just outside the school's catchment area and the council said the school was already full. But the parents insisted on Headington Quarry School on religious grounds and because all the children's friends went there. Their appeal to the local appeal committee also failed although two other children who also live outside the catchment area were allowed in.

A letter to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, claiming that the authority was acting unreasonably, failed to produce any response so the parents decided to apply to the High Court.

On July 20, a High Court judge decided there was a case to answer.

Three days later, the county council suggested the parents make fresh applications for places and the next day agreed to let the children in.

"I think the county council behaved very badly," Mrs Deborah Waters said this week, "and I think Sir Keith Joseph should have written to us. Now I just want to get back to normal life."

Mr Tim Brighouse, the county's chief education officer, said on Tuesday the authority would have let the children in earlier if there had been room. A new admissions procedure meant they already knew how many children would be entering the school over the whole of the next school year and could therefore offer them places. The county's decision had nothing to do with the High Court judgment, he said.

Nick Wood reports from York on the conference of the Centre for the Study of Comprehensive Schools

'Exam reforms mean more teaching jobs'

More teachers will be needed to cope with the extra workload posed by the Government plans for exam reform, said Mr Brian Arthur, a chief HMI.

The success of plans to introduce records of achievement for all school leavers, and to bring in more teacher assessment of pupils in the new 16-plus, depended on creating more time for teachers away from the "hurry burly" of the classroom, he said.

"I think that it is on that basis one makes the case for increased numbers of teachers and increased time for them."

Mr Arthur dismissed the idea that teachers had time to spare to cope with these extra tasks.

"I don't believe for one minute there is slack in the system," he said. "It's on that basis one has to present one's case."

He also held out the prospect of national guidelines for schools, spelling out the objectives for every subject on the timetable.

But they would be less prescriptive than the national syllabuses used by the centrally directed education system in France. "I have been to France to see what happens. I am not advocating a national syllabus, but parents and others have a clear expectation of what is schools should be doing. We have no such expectation except in terms of the examination system."

The planned switch to exams with grade-related criteria - setting out absolute rather than relative perform-

ance - would dovetail neatly with national curriculum objectives, he added.

"The exam system would fit much better on a curriculum we had agreed among ourselves," he said. "But that will take time."

Mr Arthur said that HMI would be publishing in the autumn its own thoughts on curriculum objectives - both for individual subjects and the timetable as a whole. Ministers would bring out a White Paper on the subject around the end of the year.

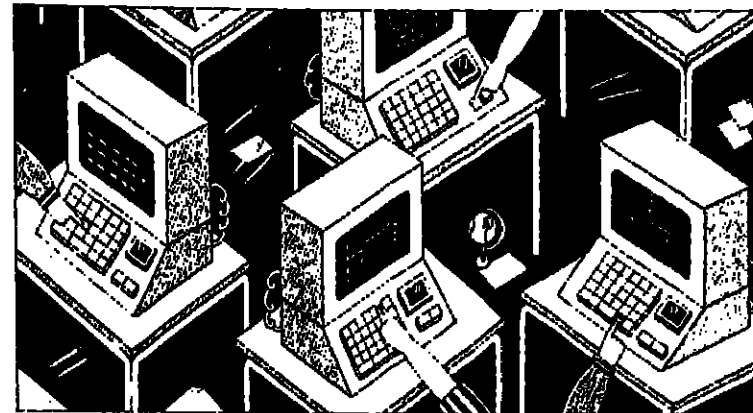
The final policy on the school curriculum would probably emerge two years later, after responses to the two separate sets of documents, he said.

He went on to back the four-pronged drive towards exam reform - grade-related criteria, records of achievement, graded assessment and teacher assessment.

But such moves carried dangers with them, he warned. Criterion-referenced exams could limit pupils' educational experience.

"What exams measure may well have the effect of narrowing the range of educational outcome, especially if they are operationalized in a series of precise pupil performances which only exist because they can be pre-specified and easily measured - for example, a concentration on surface features such as spelling, punctuation and grammar."

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Make or break for schools

Comprehensive schools are in danger of losing sight of what should be their guiding principle - that the education of every child is of equal worth, the conference was told.

Mr George Walker, head of Cavenish School in Hertfordshire, said he doubted whether the majority of teachers in comprehensives had ever committed themselves fully to this principle.

The switch from the selective system had been largely the work of politicians and many teachers had simply gone along with it because it held out the prospect of more and better jobs, more resources and professional advancement.

Many teachers have continued to view their pupils in terms of the traditional grammar and secondary modern stereotypes, he said.

"I worry that the heart of comprehensive education - the acceptance that every child's education is of equal worth - remains unexplored in many so-called comprehensive schools."

"It requires a strong sense of obligation towards young people irrespective of their ability, co-operation, motivation, looks and handicaps," he said.

The 1980s are a make or break time for comprehensives, Mr Walker said.

Political and economic pressure for schools to turn out a technocratic elite that would help the nation pay its way in the world struck at the heart of the comprehensive principle.

Its effects were already apparent in the plethora of vocational and technical courses that had sprung up over the past few years. Used wrongly, such initiatives would fragment schools and reintroduce selection by relegating some groups of children to second class status.

Schemes such as the Technical Vocational Education Initiative and the low attainers project should be subsumed within the framework of a common curriculum throughout the comprehensive school.

At the same time, teachers should redouble their efforts to build close relationships with all pupils.

Failure to adopt this approach would prove disastrous, Mr Walker warned. Unlike his forerunners, today's school-leaver no longer could look forward to a job to soften the blow of years of neglect and rejection in the classroom.

"They must emerge as confident and balanced people, believing that they have qualities that have been valued."

Pupils per computer will be future ratio

Schools of the future will be judged less by the number of pupils per teacher and more by the number of pupils per computer, a top industrialist told the conference.

"I have a horrible feeling that the number of computers per child will be one of the biggest and most socially divisive ratios that we will have over the next ten years," said Dr Peter Kirby, research director for Welwyn Electronics and a member of the Secondary Examinations Council.

He urged teachers to wake up to the fact that Britain was a science-based society and that they should encourage the spirit of invention and curiosity in their pupils.

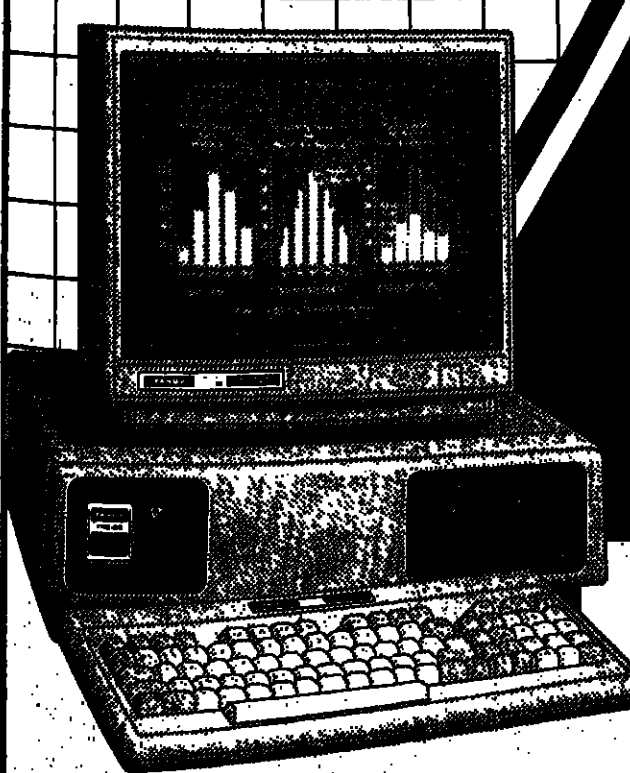
History lessons should contain less of "kings, queens and wars" and more of the lives of great inventors such as Swan and Faraday. "Many inventions have had much more impact on the life of man than kings, queens and even wars," he said.

"Couldn't we make more use of this in our attempts to stimulate young minds and interest them in the process of inventions?"

But Dr Kirby did not want schools to turn out a "nation of technocrats".

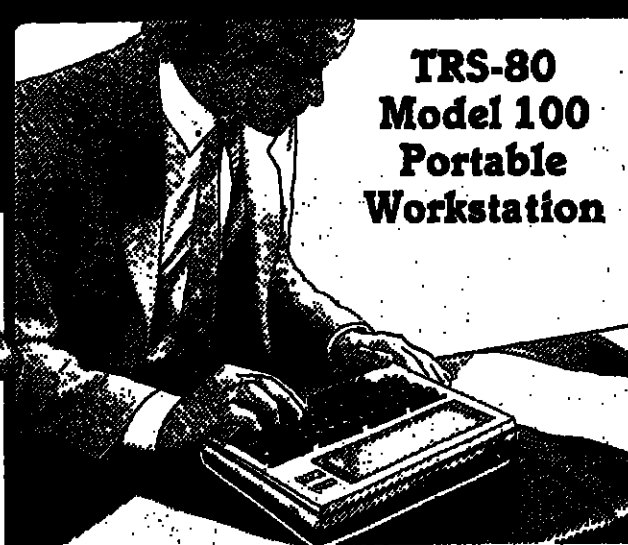
He concluded: "I am pleading for an educational spectrum that is broad and in which a broad culture is one of the greatest things we can pass on to the next generation. I would not exclude the arts, literature and language."

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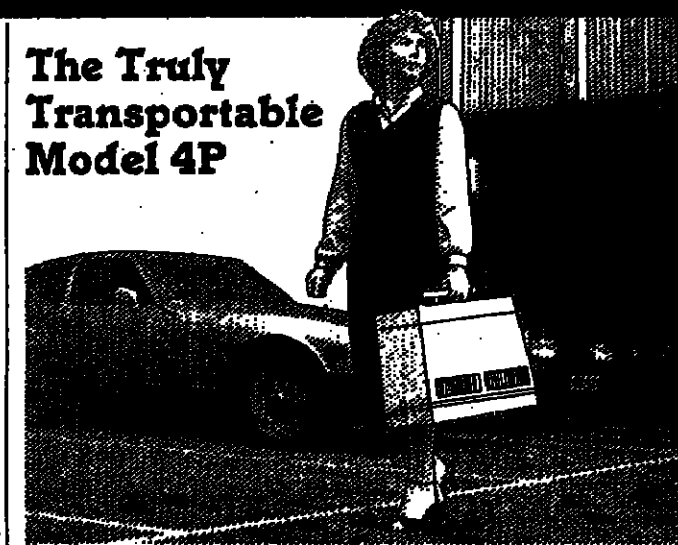
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Mr Don Dunn, the schools minister, has been advised to rest for a month after being rushed to hospital with peritonitis. He became ill just over a fortnight ago during an all-night sitting of Parliament.

Mr Dunn had an emergency operation the same day to remove his appendix and left hospital a week later. He has cancelled all his speaking engagements for a month and is expected to return to his desk at DES until September.

At the weekend, he said he was feeling much better, though still very tired.

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HMI publish 211 reports

HM Inspectorate published 211 reports in 1983, the first year such reports were made public, according to the Department of Education and Science.

Between January 1982 and January 1983 the number of pupils in English state schools fell from 7.6 to 7.4 million and the number of schools dropped by nearly 350, to 25,512.

Department of Education and Science: Annual Report 1983. HMSO price £5.50.

Heads reminded of duty during freeze

by Hillary Wilce

Berley heads, who have written to parents warning that pupils may have to be sent home from classes next autumn because of a freeze on vacant teaching posts in the borough, have received a stiff warning from the education authority about their responsibilities.

A letter from Mr Michael Long, chief education officer for schools, to all heads, reminds them of their duty to ensure that essential operations are normally carried out by any staff are maintained as far as possible. It also points out that teachers refusing to cover for absent colleagues of refusing

to work to an altered timetable will be deemed to be in breach of contract. Sending pupils home will not be justified, bearing in mind the "number of steps" open to head teachers to avoid this, the letter says.

However, Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, which has declared a collective dispute with the Tory-controlled London borough, said he had written to Berley members advising them neither to alter timetables to solve the problems of unfilled posts nor to cover for missing teachers. "I'm not prepared to allow any special working hours to be set up to consider exceptional cases."

members to be pressurized in the way they were during the last week of term last week, and to patch over the situation in order to comply with the local authority's policy. If vacancies are not filled and teachers are not going to cover, then pupils may well have to be excluded.

Sixteen posts are unfilled in the borough following a hard-line education committee decision to freeze all vacant posts pending the outcome of arbitration on teachers' pay. Many essential posts have been freed by a

Minister on the mend

Mr Don Dunn, the schools minister, has been advised to rest for a month after being rushed to hospital with peritonitis. He became ill just over a fortnight ago during an all-night sitting of Parliament.

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At the weekend, he said he was feeling much better, though still very tired.

Biddy Passmore on the effects of the Government spending limits on education authorities

The cost of 'rate-capping'

Compulsory redundancies among both teachers and ancillary staff, the ending of maintenance grants for 16 to 19-year-olds and swinging cuts in colleges and polytechnics would be among the "unacceptable" consequences of keeping to the Government's spending limit, the Inner London Education Authority said on Wednesday.

Mr Steve Bundred, who chairs the finance sub-committee, said inner Londoners faced a stark choice between "a budget agreed by the ILEA which maintains the progress of recent years and one imposed by Mrs Thatcher's Government".

The ILEA, one of four education authorities selected by the Government for "rate-capping", the limitation by law of the rate demand, has been given a spending target for next year of £900m. The Government says this represents a cut of 1½ per cent in cash on its current year's budget - that is a cut of nearly 6 per cent in real terms.

But the authority says it would need to spend £975m next year just to stand still and therefore estimates the real cut at 7.5m or 7.7 per cent.

Although the ILEA is proposing to consult Londoners about what it should do, its leaders have already agreed to join the 15 other Labour-controlled councils selected for rate-capping who are proposing a policy of

"non-compliance" with the new law. The other two ILEAs included in this group are Sheffield and the London borough of Haringey.

They have so far agreed on a concerted political challenge to the Government rather than a detailed strategy (see Dilemma story below). But they have all undertaken to prepare budgets for next year which continue present policies - that is, to ignore the Government's targets - and not to enter into negotiations with Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, for a higher target.

That course of action could mean they run out of money, as the rate the Government permits them to levy would not cover their budgets. As Mr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, predicted last week, the rate-capped authorities are joined in their defiance of Government targets by other high-spending Labour councils like Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle.

The policy of Brent in London, the fourth rate-capped ILEA, was still uncertain this week as the hung council was engaged in another power struggle between the Conservative and Labour groups.

Most ILEAs could make no detailed forecasts about the effect of last week's announcements on education because

they will not learn how much central government grant they are to receive until the end of the year.

But the ILEA, which is a single service authority and spends so much more than the Government thinks it needs that it gets no grant, could assess the implications of cutting down to its target.

They include:

- The loss of 350 teaching posts in primary schools and 1,150 in secondary;
- Up to 1,700 lost jobs among school support staff, including primary helpers, laboratory technicians, keepers and cleaners;
- More than 300 teaching and 250 non-teaching jobs to go in colleges and polytechnics;
- A rise from 35p to 50p in the school meal charge;
- An end to the school clothing voucher scheme;
- No more education maintenance allowances for 16 to 19-year-olds who stay on in full-time education.

The directly elected authority which is to succeed the present ILEA will have 58 members to begin with, two from each parliamentary constituency, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, confirmed this week. But the Boundary Commission is to draw up single member constituencies for subsequent elections.

The five education authorities, with targets 4-4½ per cent above this year's budgets, may be able to hold their spending at this year's level in real terms, or make slight reductions.

The proportion of council spending met by the Rate Support Grant will be reduced, as in England, but from a much higher level. The cut will be from 69.1 to 67 per cent (it is from 51.9 to 48.8 per cent in England).

As in England, penalties for exceeding Government spending targets will be fiercer: councils spending up to 1 per cent over target will have their grant withheld at the rate of 100 per cent, and thereafter at a rate of 150 per cent.

Mr Edwards announced a further reward for Welsh councils' spending restraint in the current year: a £15m addition to their capital spending programme in 1985-86.

What local education authorities should spend in 1985-86 (on all services)

1984/85 budget £m	NAPE adjustment £m	1985/86 provisional target £m	% change from 1984/85 budget
SHIRE COUNTIES			
318,048			
191,481	-1,081	318,788	-0.3%
227,225	-851	318,884	-1.7%
197,204	-732	208,537	-4.2%
197,041	-781	205,601	-4.2%
347,148	-1,848	345,129	-0.6%
235,225	-898	237,044	-0.8%
138,250	-1,781	146,334	-1.2%
164,146	-850	171,561	-1.0%
315,722	-1,478	314,889	-0.3%
302,669	-882	301,787	-0.3%
208,077	-823	214,088	-2.2%
197,709	-781	208,024	-4.2%
478,800	-1,880	480,747	-0.4%
180,878	-644	187,487	-3.3%
478,738	-1,007	487,748	-0.2%
207,507	-885	216,833	-4.2%
318,810	-1,442	324,087	-0.7%
318,680	-1,022	331,889	-0.7%
40,103	-1,172	42,008	-4.2%
478,319	-1,988	483,548	-0.4%
291,478	-885	295,808	-1.5%
183,349	-836	184,991	-0.9%
218,627	-806	224,578	-2.2%
104,628	-273	105,258	-0.6%
217,316	-935	221,895	-2.2%
365,186	-1,359	367,388	-0.3%
187,148	-882	188,838	-0.9%
128,997	-883	147,338	-11.5%
138,307	-1,516	136,592	1.3%
260,253	-821	261,798	-0.4%
188,732	-1,222	190,312	-0.8%
294,772	-848	295,788	-0.3%
158,817	-763	160,788	-1.2%
180,732	-778	181,722	-0.5%
189,897			
GREATER LONDON			
80,108	-154	81,722	-2%
98,052	-344	101,776	-3%
78,302	-278	80,402	-1%
140,489	-489	139,208	-1%
83,557	-807	84,661	-1%
105,718	-406	106,803	-1%
112,892	-447	117,508	-3%
94,812	-326	95,508	-1%
129,053	-282	130,358	-1%
72,345	-320	73,358	-1%
84,507	-258	85,538	-1%
67,220	-248	68,173	-1%
86,056	-183	87,038	-1%
45,386	-201	46,589	-2%
118,945	-288	121,154	-2%
75,022	-247	75,998	-1%
51,172	-227	52,324	-1%
54,604	-216	55,830	-1%
107,893	-280	111,702	-3%
917,173	-3,014	920,386	-0.3%
GREATER MANCHESTER			
80,837	-393	84,304	-4%
88,338	-231	89,561	-2%
241,836	-548	245,884	-2%
81,882	-278	82,168	-0.3%
84,707	-216	85,923	-2%
83,081	-304	84,385	-3%
89,399	-416	92,782	-4%
78,119	-309	79,089	-1%
71,340	-387	72,037	-1%
108,289	-618	109,846	-1%
MERKESBYDE			
70,885	-277	72,807	-0.3%
221,882	-528	224,089	-0.9%
89,581	-283	90,747	-0.6%
90,304	-378	93,784	-4%
112,825	-492	118,993	-5%
YORKSHIRE			
77,507	-252	78,839	-1%
105,895	-357	106,218	-0.3%
89,323	-356	90,118	-1%
217,395	-822	218,444	-0.5%
TYNE AND WEAR			
75,801	-179	77,227	-2%
125,573	-270	126,728	-0.9%
78,087	-265	79,089	-1%
62,854	-318	63,724	-1%
107,513	-313	108,568	-1%
WEST MIDLANDS			
371,695	-1,105	388,732	-2%
118,588	-494	122,648	-3%
85,388	-371	86,435	-0.7%
111,648	-407	112,848	-1%
82,497	-367	83,724	-1%
86,771	-323	87,817	-1%
99,580	-323	102,881	-3%
YORKSHIRE			
174,385	-470	174,477	-0.0%
86,134	-233	87,038	-1%
130,133	-512	135,152	-3%
234,625	-814	242,610	-3%
100,580	-482	102,088	-1%

*1984-85 budget figures for Welsh authorities have already been adjusted for factors including the switch of NAPE funding to the Manpower Services Commission.

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Hilary Wilce on two years of Northern Ireland's Youth Training Programme

A scheme that can't afford to fail

Northern Ireland seized the chance to show off its Youth Training Programme when delegates from more than 20 Council of Europe countries visited the province for a youth training conference.

With enthusiasm and zeal it parcelled them into a dozen coachloads and despatched them to the furthest corners of the land to see trainees in action. The Province-wide scheme has taken just eight months to get off the drawing board, and started up a whole year earlier than its big brother across the water, the Youth Training Scheme.

But trainees in England and Wales are less interested in its miraculous birth than in its growing pains, and are watching with keen interest to see the state of the scheme as it approaches its third year of operation.

The YTP guarantees a year of education and training for 16-year-olds, and some places for 17-year-olds. This is at a cost of about £49m a year. This year it is expected to provide 6,700 places for 16-year-olds, catering for just over 70 per cent of leavers neither in full-time education nor in a job, according to last year's figures.

Refusal rates are high, partly because of geographical problems of distance, partly because of the draining mix of social and economic problems facing some areas. There are other problems, too, although the consensus is that the programme is working well.

For employers a major difficulty is money. Twenty-five pounds a week, they say, is simply not enough to entice young people off the dole, especially when travel costs are high. They also complain that the profiling system in use in the programme is too complex.

The system, the log book and review method designed by the City and Guilds of London Institute, is throwing up a number of headaches, although the principles of continuous and self-assessment are still widely supported.

Trainers, especially those of the old school, used to marking work 'fair' or 'poor', feel uneasy with the new and complex system, where positive remarks must be made at all costs.

Others simply find the whole exercise too time-consuming.

Educators see the main problems differently. The two big ones, according to Mr Norman Morrison, chief inspector of further education for the



Training... one of the ways to keep the youngsters off the streets

Department of Education in Northern Ireland, are quality control, staff development and training.

To help tackle the latter, a staff development unit has been set up at Ulster Polytechnic, but the former poses deep-seated difficulties.

What trainees learn in their guaranteed year of education and training varies enormously. Unlike the England and Wales Youth Training Scheme, the YTP is organized to a great extent through the further education system, which accounts for about 40 per cent of provision.

Outside the colleges, places are provided by government training centres, community-run workshops and other community and voluntary schemes. Employers play a relatively small part in the programme - not surprisingly in a region where unemployment generally runs at about 26 per cent and the unemployment rate for the under-25s is 41 per cent.

Trainees going into one of the 12 government training centres get a six-month introduction to a range of four skill areas and a work experience placement, followed by six months training in one range of skills.

The atmosphere of the centres is specifically designed to duplicate the world of work, and trainees have to clock on and off and keep to a strict timetable.

In contrast, life in the 40-plus Work Preparation Units, the community-led workshops funded by the Department of Economic Development, is far more relaxed. Girls sew rag dolls and boys

SCHOOL TO WORK

make telephone tables for sale. Pensioners come into the hairdressing salon for a cheap perm, and the woodwork shop makes camping equipment boxes for the local Boy Scouts.

The workshops are well-funded and enjoy generous staff-student ratios, but there is a question mark over the exact skills that student learn, and the standard of some of the teaching.

Even so, success rates are reasonable. At the Bann Area Training Services workshops, in Coleraine, over the past five years (the workshops predate the YTP) 80 per cent of young people who completed their courses left to take jobs, and some of the parent trainees have ambitious plans for part-time upholstery and sewing businesses, should they fail to find work when they leave.

Overall just over 50 per cent of trainees leave the YTP to take jobs. For those who fail to find work, the programme offers the chance of a second year's training. However, take-up has been poorer than expected - last year only 3,500 17-year-olds returned to the programme, 1,000 fewer than were anticipated.

The main reason, according to a spokesman from the DED, is a sense of hopelessness at being unable to get a job, even at the end of yet another year's training.

As a result, from this summer, instead of trainees returning to spend another year on a weekly grant of £25, employers will be offered £25 for every 17-year-old they recruit into a job

(with training). Young people will be offered up to £50 a week for these "real" jobs, and it is hoped that about 5,000 will take up the offer.

A further adjustment is to be made in the programme for next year by placing the emphasis more firmly on partnership schemes, involving more than one provider. Major providers have tended to propose year-long schemes, which fail to provide the mix and integration of experiences originally intended. This is now to be counteracted by an insistence that all proposals for new or renewed schemes must be presented as partnership schemes.

Unlike the YTS, the YTP is run jointly by the DED and the DENI, through an inter-departmental executive, advised by the Manpower Advisory Council on which sit representatives of all the main interest groups.

Although some tensions are apparent between the manpower and education departments (mainly about money, although sometimes also about priorities), the power-sharing appears to work amicably enough, helped along by the relatively small scale of operations, which allows problems to be sorted out quickly and on a personal basis.

Another definite plus for the programme is the way it caters for unqualified and unmotivated youngsters through the well-known Youthways courses. These courses, started before the YTP, but now included in it, give Ulster's most apathetic youngsters a grounding in basic skills, help to boost their confidence, and channel them on to succeeding parts of the programme. Their success in placing youngsters in jobs has been startling.

The YTP, of course, cannot afford to fail. While no society likes alienated and jobless youngsters cluttering up its street corners, in Northern Ireland they could be literally lethal - willing recruits into the para-military organizations on both sides of the sectarian divide.

Mr Jim Prior the Northern Ireland Secretary, acknowledged this urgent reality when welcoming the Council of Europe delegates to Belfast. "We must", he emphasized, "find something to keep them interested, to keep them on our side, something to keep them away from the problems they would otherwise get into."

Education statistics 1983/4, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London, W1.

Youngsters on YTS now benefit from 21-hours rule

by Diane Spencer

People who have been on Youth Training Schemes will now be allowed to go straight on to college courses for up to 21 hours a week without losing supplementary benefit.

Until now, the rules said they had to be receiving benefit for three months before being eligible for the 21 hour rule courses. This condition still applies to other claimants.

The Department of Education and Science has issued a memorandum to local education authorities and colleges about the relaxation of the rule. But the Department stressed that unemployed YTS leavers would still have to remain available for work in order to claim benefit.

Unemployed adults and young people who have not just left the YTS schemes can study up to 15 hours a week, including homework, without loss of benefit during the qualifying period.

Parliament is likely to approve a change in this regulation to limit study to 12 hours a week excluding private study as this will avoid having to check the time spent on homework.

Job Centres and local benefit offices are being encouraged to display information about courses, because a survey carried out by the Youthaid organisation suggested more unemployed people would take advantage of the 21 hour rule if they knew about it.

More to study architecture

The number of students taking architecture courses increased by 7.3 per cent last year with the polytechnic intake at a record level, the Royal Institute of British Architects says in its annual education survey.

New entrants increased from 1,605 in 1982/3 to 1,726 in 1983/4, with a slight increase in the proportion of women - 21.3 per cent compared with 21 per cent.

Education statistics 1983/4, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London, W1.

Shires voice complaints

Tory-controlled shire counties whom the Government claimed to have treated generously in last week's announcement on local government spending have joined the chorus of complaint.

Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire, both low-spending counties who were rewarded with spending targets for next year 4½ per cent higher than their present budgets, said that was not enough.

Buckinghamshire's chief complaint is that Government targets and grant handouts are based on population figures two years out of date. The county's population has been growing by 9-10,000 a year in the Milton Keynes area, so the Government's figures ignore about 20,000 people needing facilities.

A similar point was made by Mrs. Emily Blatch, leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, where the population is growing by about 1½ per cent a year.

While welcoming the Government's recognition of its past unfairness to low spenders, she said ministers must indicate that this was only one step in the process of redressing the balance.

Mrs Blatch criticized "swinging increases" at the lower end of the penalty scale for councils exceeding the target.

Dilemma of the defiant education authorities

The four rate-capped ILEAs face an almost impossible decision when they consider how to defy the Government's legislation on council spending (see Dilemma story below).

All 16 Labour-controlled authorities on the hit list have agreed on a policy of non-compliance with the Rates Act. But in practice there is no simple strategy.

The options include:

- Setting a higher rate than the ceiling laid down by the Environment Secretary.

But this would be plainly illegal under the Rates Act. Finance officers would not be empowered to collect the money, nor ratepayers to pay it.

● Refusing to set a rate. How long an authority could survive without rates income would depend on the level of its reserves and its borrowing power in the money market.

Borrowing money is expensive and would only worsen the authority's financial position. Fears that the council might default on its short-term debts could lead to lenders asking for repayment.

All forms of borrowing might then be closed. Eventually the authority would simply run out of money.

● Setting a legal rate - but spending at a higher level.

The council might set its budget in accordance with the current year's plans, but levy a rate in line with the Government ceiling. Alternatively, it

could agree a budget the council would pass "supplementary estimates" restoring spending to its previous level.



Picture: Janine Wedge

David Lister meets Professor Richard Hoggart who is retiring after a distinguished career

Uniting arts and social change

Richard Hoggart retires next month with the consuming passions of his life under threat.

Adult education which he has championed for 40 years continues to bleed from financial cuts.

The universities, which he has served in several capacities culminating in his seven-year rectorship of Goldsmiths' College, are viewed as ideologically suspect by a government that controls their purse strings.

UNESCO, where he was assistant director general for five years, has been told by the United States that it is pulling out a quarter of the budget with it. And Mrs Thatcher, too, is making threatening noises.

The Arts Council, from which he maintains he was "sacked" as vice chairman because No 10 did not like his politics, undergoes continued trauma.

Television, which, in his view, has at its best allowed literature, and more importantly, information, to cross the class divides, is about to be undermined by the cable revolution which, he says, heralds a "communications wasteland".

Literature and the arts, which he has always seen as liberating forces and with which he still unashamedly and unfashionably conducts a love affair, are seldom the subject of serious conversation in Thatcherite Britain, and virtually never the object of serious money. To his greater ire, they are undervalued by the Left too.

And to cap it all, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, which he went into the witness box to defend over 20 years ago, has just been banned from a school library by a headmaster.

Professor Hoggart's departure from Goldsmiths' means a formal farewell to one of the small band of democratic socialist intellectuals who have successfully combined a devotion to literature and the arts with sustained and practical endeavour for social change.

His own roots — brought up by his grandmother in a working class suburb of Leeds — are signposted in his 1957 masterpiece *The Uses of Literacy* (one of the surprisingly few books as opposed to articles and reports that he has written) and have without doubt informed the class analysis which he has brought to nearly all his writings and thought.

This book started off as an academic work on mass communications and popular culture but is best remembered for what he has described as an afterthought — the semi-autobiog-

raphical descriptions of working class life which have sealed him a place in English literature as well as English social history.

Though his environment now is the world of academia, government committees and the international lecture circuit, he remains motivated by the same concerns with which he started his career and disdained by the philistinism and anti-intellectualism he sees in the dominant cliques of both Right and Left, though not, he steadfastly maintains, in the mass of the people.

"The popular press assumes that British people are anti-artistic," says, "I don't think they are. They may be often unartistic for lots of reasons. They also assume they are anti-intellectual. I don't believe that. They are often un-intellectual for lots of reasons, cultural, historical, educational."

And, he adds, chuckling over a statistic which plainly delights him in the surprise it causes others, "more people go to drama in any one year than go to football".

But he feels the debate on the arts in Britain is totally inadequate for both sides of the political spectrum. As with many middle-of-the-road socialists (his intellectual argument is politely directed at the Right but his real venom at the Left).

"The Left are very often just plain silly. They will dismiss high literature, which I think is one of the best achievements of any society, as a merely bourgeois con act. And the people who do this are usually middle class graduates."

"There's this extraordinary relativism now. People are terribly, terribly bothered about making any judgments. If I give a lecture and say, yes, it's difficult to read good literature but it's important that you do, you're never the same again after experiencing *King Lear* and all that, somebody invariably comes up to me and says 'But aren't you being elitist? I say: No, I'm not being elitist if that means I think some works of literature are better than others. The language that some of these people use can be pretty abusive.'"

Hoggart was just as irritated by the response of the more conventional arts lovers who castigated him in his last years as Arts Council vice chairman for his part in taking the D'Oyly Carte company. He still considers they had a stranglehold over Gilbert and Sullivan and is slightly amused by how quickly they have slipped from the public consciousness.

Hoggart's dismissal of the far Left extends to much of student union politics which he says "have become the fringe of a fringe, and most students ignore them. Presidents and their aides are elected on minute voting turn-outs. Looking back over the past 15 or so years, most European observers conclude that the upheavals of 1968 and after were not worthwhile. And it is hard to disagree."

He is not completely sympathetic, either, to the university establishments in their current tension with the Government.

The new Conservatives, which he likes to distinguish from the old Tory Party which he still holds in some respect, has a view of education that is at all levels vocational, technology and business-centred (He notes that in Sir Keith Joseph's Sheffield speech the arts were barely mentioned).

"It suspects the social sciences which it sees as uniquely ideological and congenitally left-wing. Its favourite horror novel, in confirmation of that view, is Malcolm Bradbury's *The History Man*. So it doesn't feel all that tender towards the universities," he says.

"Yet, the thrust of the new Conservatism apart, he can say, not to mince words, that the universities were asking for it. They had stood on their autonomy as though it was a fact of nature, not a convention which could always be challenged if times got really bad. They had been responsive to the call to expand but did so almost entirely in their own existing terms. They brushed aside most suggestions that they might rethink."

Shirley Williams, one of the most friendly of recent Education Secretaries, put before them a list of 13 points about their role now that expansion was over. She is a very good natured woman but did not at all like the brush off she met."

With the intellectual breadth that will be missed once he has gone, Hoggart widens his argument quickly to ask, as few have done, whether the universities are at all concerned about the sort of society today's graduates are evolving.

"There is this new social group — the new professions, especially the communications professions such as the mass media."

"It has reasonably good newspapers, likes wine, French foods, the car, than the honeyed holidays to the Caribbean. These are its more characteristic pursuits. Its members are also well-catered for in their special or even specialist interests, as a glance at one of the larger railway bookstalls shows. While feeling their members into this group the universities have paid little attention not only to what they are doing socially in thus serving a new stratum but the larger, knocking-on-effect of the vastening-process we are undergoing, to what is happening down below, to the other 85-90 per cent of society."

"But it can be strongly argued that the cost of selecting and housing the service group at Goldsmiths is well-provided for in both its shared and its specialist tastes, the shared, through the immense brand processes, of commercial competition, to create a

more solid mass of those outside and below.

"A mass less physically and visually marked than the old social classes and sub-classes but more solidly held together by the tastes they are so insistently urged to cultivate — the leisure industries offerings, the junk food, the packaged resort holidays, the over-hyped TV shows, the indoor games that offer good profits and keep us near a bar. But cultural change interests the great majority of university teachers hardly at all."

The question of a wider analysis of society at large also informs his view of the comprehensive schools debate: "What is hardly ever asked with enough force of analysis behind it is this; which among us has the right to criticize the anti-intellectual, anti-imagination, consumer-mad, sex-and-immediate-gratifications attitudes of even the worst in the worst comprehensive school if we have not related such attitudes to the thrust of society at large?"

If you encourage these attitudes (for profit, of course) and at the same time give the great mass of people the sense that they are socially at the bottom of the heap and likely to remain there, then you will encourage either passive hedonism or, in revolt, manifestations such as punk."

"I know quite well the sympathetic explanations for the rise of punk and the like — as expressions of this sense of rejection and, in turn, of young people's own rejection of domesticated consumerism and the world of the admen. But these are not useful positions. Punk may be an understandable reaction: it is not mature action. Will Sir Keith Joseph please try to acquaint himself better with such perspectives onto our present educational situation?"

In bemoaning the universities' inability to rethink, Hoggart is clearly referring to the arms length attitude to adult education that many institutions still maintain. Since being sent by Hull University to teach adults in Hull Yorkshire in the 1940s, he has been in the forefront of campaigns on the subject ever since, chairing the Government's advisory council until its demise in 1974.

He is sad about the still-parlous state of adult education (though the need to fund adequately literacy teaching does not seem to have been largely understood) but not disappointed because he never expected much.

"The present Government is not alone. In some ways they do reflect major areas of opinion. The universities in general have a weak hold on the need for more continuing education; most trade unions have done too little, and on too narrow a front. These groups are sure they reflect the mood of the majority, that most people think continuing education is at best a substitute, hole-in-the-corner occupation and a bit comical. They are wrong; over two million people take up one form or another of part-time continuing education."

Ironically, Hoggart has come under fire over the difficult balancing act he has had to perform at Goldsmiths College, keeping its reputation for high status academic work but not neglecting its commitment to the depressed community around its south London base.

Hoggart, who is 66, notoriously grumbles with his critics, dismisses as "grumbles" and points to the fact that the last job he has taken on before retirement is chairing a working party on the future commitment of the college to adult education.

No-one doubts his own commitment. One of the leading figures in the university world describes his two overriding characteristics as constancy and tenacity. "He is undyingly loyal to his main concerns — about Party, UNESCO, and the League of Nations. He will plug away like a bulldog. He is a model of ideological consistency."

Hoggart's own ideology was set out well in the George Orwell Memorial Lecture which he gave earlier this year and which is to be published next month. It is one of the best intellectual critiques of the new Conservatism, its stress on vocational education and consequent disregard for liberal and adult education which is necessary so that people are able to make choices and keep a critical eye on government.

Its lack of regulation for cable TV where simplistic assertions about free market will undo so much of what is good about public service broadcasting.

He ends it with a memorable prophecy of doom: "I have a mildly nightmarish vision. It is of a 40-year-old advertising executive living in one of the more fashionable professional suburbs of London or exurbia — Cobham or Sutton or Sevenoaks. He has two children, both at 'independent' schools; his salary prevents him from being eligible for the Assisted Places Scheme, of which he guardedly approves."

"He is rising in his profession, he has just won, to his own and everyone else's surprise, a seat for the Tories on Labour. He talks a lot about encouraging layabouts and is a little short on sympathy for the non-professional, encouraging initiative and self-reliance and also about freeing broadcasting from what he likes to call the 'nanny spirit, and of not feather-bedding artists, especially those who throw a pot of paint in the public's face or at least carry poles on their heads across East Anglia (but he likes the occasional free visit to something not very modern at Covent Garden); he is in favour of reversing the 'ill-fated comprehensive experiment'; if he ever thinks about adult education, it raises no more than a quick dismissive smile. He is not a very appetizing human being, for all the manly smell of Brut."

"Nor does he represent, I like to think, the best continuing tradition of Conservatism. That resided in people like Edward Boyle, and it may yet prove to have greater staying-power than the style of the 'Flash Harry' who now make up so much of the new Tory majority. I hope so; as I hope that some of the old Left — that which was exemplified above all in such men as Bevan in politics — will find their Eighties forms of words. Those few groups, while not winning, could nevertheless come from different wings to give us a more attractive vision of a future for this society than most of those on the left of the Left, or than the Government, of Mrs Thatcher could ever give us."

What makes the latest report different is that the Governors' Conference, a bipartisan organization representing Democratic and Republican legislatures alike, is also convinced that something unusual is going on in American schools.

The governors, understandably, attach less importance to the impact of the Government's *Nation at Risk* report and more to a less-noticed report of their own published at about the same time last year. That report, *Action for Excellence*, called on states to adopt eight recommendations for reform.

They included drawing up statewide reorganization plans — creating more partnerships between schools, business and the community; devoting more resources to education; increasing the status of teachers; improving the curriculum; devising better quality control in education; improving school management; and serving minorities better.

On every count, the governors now say, progress has been remarkable: Responding to appeals for statewide planning, some 46 states are working on comprehensive reform plans, 27 of which started in the last 14 months.

In North Carolina, for example, a reform plan published last April calls for smaller class sizes, higher teacher pay and the creation of a centre for the advancement of teaching. The North Carolina General Assembly has approved a \$300m expansion budget for education.

Lula Garcia reports on a survey that shows inadequacies for minority groups

A national survey of conditions in Government schools has painted a picture of neglect affecting three-quarters, or more than 1.5 million of Australia's school children.

In particular the survey points to grave inadequacies in teaching migrant and Aboriginal students; in class sizes; and in the physical state of many schools.

Just as importantly the survey shows that there are still 1,350 classrooms in Australia with asbestos in deteriorating condition posing risk for thousands of children.

The findings are contained in the 1984 National Survey of Conditions in Government Schools, conducted by the Australian Teachers' Federation, the National Teachers' Federation.

The survey, which cost the federation more than 20,000 Australian dollars, (£12,800) is based on a questionnaire sent to more than 1,000 or 15.6 per cent Government schools in all states and territories.

The federation's president, Mr Van Dary, said the survey showed how imperative it was for the federal Labour Government to provide the 11 million Australian dollars promised during the 1983 election campaign.

He said the Government also must provide additional resources for buildings for migrant and Aboriginal education and in other areas of need in its funding guidelines for 1985.

For its part the Government appears to have taken notice of the teachers' survey — the only major nationwide investigation of conditions in Australian schools.

Among the survey's detailed findings are: "One third of classrooms have overdue maintenance affecting child safety." Schools are running out of space — 7,200 will be needed to replace temporary accommodation.

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States proclaim a year of generosity

America's state governments, reviewing a year of unprecedented educational reform in the United States, claimed last week that almost every state in the nation was devoting more money, energy and creativity to the schools than ever before.

At a meeting of the National Governors' Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, state governors issued a joint report saying individual states had responded overwhelmingly to a governors' appeal a year ago to make school improvement a major priority. The report says that more than 250 committees and panels are now studying sweeping reforms in all aspects of American education, with literally thousands of education bills submitted in state legislatures around the country.

Teacher certification, high school graduation and post-secondary admission standards have been raised in many states," the report adds. "Business leaders, community groups and countless individuals who have not customarily been involved in education have joined together in the last year to define and carry out a new agenda for education."

The report makes the governors the second tier of government in the United States to declare victory in the battle to improve educational standards. In a review earlier this year, the federal Department of Education attributed a flood of educational reforms to the publication last year of the Reagan Administration's *Nation at Risk* report.

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OVERSEAS

UNITED STATES

Peter David on the glowing performance review from the Governors' Conference

The recommendation for business-school-community partnerships has been widely adopted. More than 1,000 businessmen in the Dallas independent school district have "adopted" virtually every one of the 200 schools in the area, providing extra funds, equipment and volunteer tutors.

In another typical example, the IBM Corporation has donated 2,000 personal computers to 130 elementary and secondary schools as part of a \$12m programme to train teachers and students to use computers. And in Colorado, local businesses are helping to set up a programme offering school-leavers special courses in "employability skills".

Some 15 states have responded to the recommendation for increased spending. Since 1982, the governors claim, increased support from states and districts has offset the Federal Government's reductions in education spending.

Over the last five years, the state share of the education tab has increased 2 per cent, and local government contributions appear to be picking up after a steady decline from 1969 to 1982. Corporate business contribu-

tions are running at over \$50m a year and show signs of increasing.

Increasing public regard for teachers has been a feature of most state reform plans, the report says. For 1983-84, 16 states report salary increases of 8 per cent or more. And since 1981, 17 states have stepped up their programmes to recognize and reward outstanding teachers by providing cash awards or grants.

Nineteen states have also passed master-teacher or career ladder merit pay initiatives, providing opportunities for exceptional teachers a shortcut to higher pay and status. Some 28 states are offering financial incentives such as loans or scholarships to lure talented people into the teaching profession.

The plea for curriculum reform appears to have been heard, too. In the past three years, 39 states have started to review the curriculum, 26 states in the last year alone. Changes include new core curricula focused on the academic basics and better laboratories for science education.

Many of the initiatives have also tried to increase the amount of time pupils spend in class. Twenty-seven states have tried to lengthen the school day, reduce extracurricular activities or cut the number of days pupils are allowed off.

Most states are looking for better ways to monitor the quality of education they provide. Almost every state has recently introduced

stiffer standards for teacher certification or annual teacher evaluations. Some 33 states have raised the academic threshold for high school graduation or promotion from one class to the next.

Improving school management has been an issue in many reform plans. Twenty-nine states have initiated programmes in the last 14 months, ranging from institutes for head teachers to the use of private management firms to enhance school efficiency.

The governors' eighth and final recommendation, increasing services for the educationally disadvantaged, is acknowledged in their new progress report to be the most difficult of all. Nevertheless, 18 states report new efforts to deal with dropouts and truant and 26 states have started new programmes over the past three years to cater better for female, minority and handicapped students.

The governors' national efforts for educational reform are being coordinated by a committee chaired by Mr Pierre Du Pont, the Governor of Delaware. In a press conference last week, he said the general attitude of state legislatures to education was far more encouraging than in the recent past.

But he added: "If we stop here, we will quickly find ourselves falling behind again. The challenge ahead of us now is to build on the momentum we have developed over the past couple of years."

Pupil control: how innocents get caught in the classroom dragnet

A Houston high school senior recently took to dyeing the fringe of his blond hair and wearing a little pigtail.

He had hopes of being a smash at the prom — and indeed, the new style quickly became a local fad — but school officials reached for the dress code. "Extreme hairstyles are not permitted," they concluded, and warned the young man to un-dye his hair or stay away from commencement. The student responded by suing the school, which capitulated; it was a two-toned student who appeared at graduation last month.

What makes this story special is that it occurred in 1984, when the very notion that students might sue school officials over matters of personal liberty seems exotic.

It was not always that way, though. During the 1960s, all sorts of student "rights" claims were regularly aired. There were disputes over armbands protesting the Vietnam War and battles over student newspapers — with courts debating, for instance, whether a principal could censor an article accusing him of having a "sick mind."

Cases about hairstyles filled the courts. In those days, it wasn't colour but length that was the subject of contention. Dozens of judges opined on the constitutionality of confining cases. A book was even written on the subject.

Today, this all seems as ancient — and as irrelevant — as the Peloponnesian Wars. Students are regularly disciplined, a new study of Indiana high school youngsters reports that one in six are suspended or expelled from school each year, with little mention made of student rights. Underground newspapers, lapel badges, and all the political paraphernalia seem, for the notice, a thing of the past.

This is not to say that students have been transformed into angels, of course. Discipline remains very much an issue. And although the incidence of violence in the schools has been dropping since the mid-1970s, enough terrible things still regularly occur — lunch money crimes, drug deals, physical assaults — to be a source of genuine concern. In the annual Gallup survey of attitudes toward education, discipline has been at or near the top of

the list of popular worries for some time.

But the way that the discipline issue is addressed in the schools has changed. A decade ago, administrators were fretting that the courts were going to tell them how to manage their lives, but remarkably little judicial intervention has actually occurred. Now, the belief that the Constitution properly limits what administrators can do in maintaining control — the belief that students have liberties worth preserving — gets the back of the hand.

Youngsters already searched had to stand next to the search-chamber. Listening to their classmates crying while they were being searched. That's the extreme — but it's the extreme to which the new regime of pupil control points.

School officials take a hard-nosed view of these things. For inner city administrators, especially, the school is a war zone and they're fighting back with all the weapons they have. Detroit's superintendent states bluntly that "the stakes are too high, in our schools and in our community," to fret about the loss of student rights.

Yet it's always when the stakes are high that constitutional rights are most at risk — and most important. It is in the nature of liberty to make it harder for authorities to maintain order. But keeping official power within bounds confirms that authority isn't omnipotent or omniscient, and that's a valuable lesson for schools in a democracy to be teaching the young.

The point isn't to harass principals or needlessly expose youngsters to risk. But judges and school boards should be telling administrators that there are some things, such as strip searches, that they cannot do in school — period, and that there are other things — frisks and handbag searches, for instance — that are acceptable only if there's strong evidence that the student has committed a crime.

A parent who fought against super-security tactics in her son's school explains why: "We will become the school that has our children pass through these portals and be presumed guilty. That is not the principle on which this society is founded." Amen to that.

Random searches of students' lockers — drugs, liquor and weapons are the usual targets — occur routinely in a growing number of school districts. There are schools where students pass daily through metal detectors on their way to class. Security guards are almost as common as hall monitors used to be, and they regularly search students to whom the faintest suspicion of wrong-doing attaches.

In a suit now before the US Supreme Court, for instance, an assistant principal who was trying to wring from a student the confession that she had smoked in the bathroom, cleaned out her purse looking for cigarettes — to no apparent purpose, since smoking was permitted in certain parts of the school. And searches don't always stop with a purse check or a pat-down: students have been stripped and searched.

Real threats to physical safety prompt these responses. In Detroit, for example, security guards have collected 59 guns as well as 69 knives and other weapons since the beginning of the school year. But what gets forgotten in the stress on security is the innocent students and teachers who remain the overwhelming majority get caught up with the guilty handful in

Picture of neglect

AUSTRALIA

Lula Garcia reports on a survey that shows inadequacies for minority groups

A national survey of conditions in Government schools has painted a picture of neglect affecting three-quarters, or more than 1.5 million of Australia's school children.

In particular the survey points to grave inadequacies in teaching migrant and Aboriginal students; in class sizes; and in the physical state of many schools.

Just as importantly the survey shows that there are still 1,350 classrooms in Australia with asbestos in deteriorating condition posing risk for

OVERSEAS

John O'Leary reports from the Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference in Nicosia

What happens when the money runs out

Private funding is being accepted as an indispensable supplement to state education systems even in the Socialist countries of the Commonwealth, education ministers learned at a conference in Cyprus last week.

Governments of developing countries particularly have been unable to keep pace with spiralling costs and ever-increasing demands for education. Some are devoting 20 per cent or more of their national budgets to education but still cannot cope with growing school-age populations.

As a result, a number of governments have had to swallow their political pride and seek funds from parents, churches and business. And delegates to the Commonwealth Education Ministers' conference, in Nicosia, were eager to swap ideas on how extra resources could be raised.

The subject was perhaps the most productive of the three items of the meeting, which was again dominated by the issue of overseas student fees. The third theme, of youth unemployment, concerned every minister but meant different things to different countries. Ministers accepted the proposition in a working paper by Kenneth King, director of the Centre for African Studies at Edinburgh University, that there is no common youth unemployment problem across the Commonwealth. He argued that the large majority of people in developing countries had no expectations of salaried employment.

However, working groups on resources for education were able to identify a number of common approaches, especially for the developing nations. The ministers accepted that few Commonwealth countries were likely to be able to afford to devote more government money to education, so they would have to look elsewhere. Jamaica had introduced an additional

1 per cent income tax specifically for education and Sri Lanka was running a lottery to finance extra scholarships, for example. In Papua New Guinea, the schools board had bought a coffee plantation to make money for education.

Sponsorship by industrial and commercial firms was taking place in some countries, but the most common sources of funds were the parents or the schools themselves. A working paper by Professor Peter Williams, the new head of the Commonwealth Secretariat's education programme, asked whether support for community initiatives could be reconciled with the maintenance of equality, given that wealthier communities could afford to be more self-reliant. But none of the national submissions admitted to such doubts.

Zimbabwe, for example, was spending about 20 per cent of its budget on education but still relied on parents for 70 per cent of the cost of capital development in secondary schools. The Government had decided not to nationalize education, leaving 90 per cent of institutions privately owned.

The acceptance of such themes, often justified in terms of raising community involvement in education, was symptomatic of a down-to-earth approach throughout the conference. When the Minister of Education for Lesotho made a speech blaming the British colonial legacy for the deficiencies of education in developing countries, the Zimbabwean minister was among the first to down the remarks.

Nevertheless, a succession of ministers from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean accused the British Government of endangering the very existence of the Commonwealth by persisting with its full-cost fees policy. But Mr Peter Brooke, minister for higher education, offered no concessions. — *THESE*

Britain gets lion's share of job creation funds

EEC

Anne Good on how European money will help local projects

place greater emphasis on adult needs, are losing ground.

Replies to criticisms from other member countries about the United Kingdom's expanding share of the fund (which has gone from under a quarter of the total in 1981 to almost a third this year). Commission officials pointed out that UK training bodies, unlike many others, "are doing their homework".

With 75 per cent of the fund now earmarked for young people, the Manpower Services Commission's concentration on youth training fits into the EEC priority. So the MSC is getting between £150m and £200m from Europe each year to help pay for its Youth Training Schemes. And other member countries, such as Italy, which

more advanced course. While the greatest proportion of standard training, a number of more innovative projects deserve mention. In Merseyside, for example, £30,000 will go from the EEC towards training 12 unemployed youngsters in various communication skills so that they can provide community groups with access to cable television.

Another interesting new EEC-backed project will re-train 168 young fishermen, mainly from the north of England and Scotland, so that they can move from deep sea to inshore fishing. New technology gets a special boost with funding of a major MSC programme to train 900 young people in computer programming and systems analysis. On a small scale, with EEC help Lucas Aerospace will train 150 young workers, (now threatened with redundancy) in computer-aided design and robotics.

Phonetic idea proves sound

CHINA

A new system of teaching written Chinese, by learning characters with the help of a phonetic alphabet, has proved highly successful in experiments carried out in primary schools in Heilongjiang province, north-east China.

Under the traditional method, the progress of Chinese primary school children in learning to read and write lags about two years behind those from countries with alphabetic systems of writing. This is because they initially got bogged down in having to learn the thousands of non-phonetic characters which make up the Chinese written

language at the age - seven and eight years old - when, according to Chinese psychologists, they could most effectively be absorbing language training and developing their intelligence.

Under the new system, children are first taught pinyin, the Chinese phonetic alphabet which uses roman letters. Then, when they have mastered reading and writing sentences fluently in pinyin, Chinese characters are introduced in a dual text.

Because they read earlier, say the researchers, they have accumulated more knowledge and "generally have a wider field of vision".

Jane Marshall



LETTERS

Maths profile

Sir - I cannot let Frank Tapson's challenge (Talkback, July 13) go unanswered; he asks for a reputable examining body to validate the awards of a 16-plus grade in mathematics on the basis of school-based continuous assessment. Graded Assessment in Mathematics (GAIM) promises this and much more.

The project is jointly managed by the University of London School Examinations Board (GCE), the London Regional (CSE) Examining Board, the ILEA and Chelsea College, and has

Nuffield support. Our aim is to provide a detailed profile, structured into 10 or more progressive levels, of a student's current achievement in mathematics throughout the secondary school (and beyond) in terms of both specific concepts/skills and more general problem-solving processes.

The GAIM project, which at present involves a team of nine and includes teachers seconded from Kent and Merton as well as ILEA and Chelsea College, runs parallel to similar developments in science, CDT, English and modern languages, all forming part of the London Record of Achievement. It has been agreed that

a particular level in each subject will be fully equivalent to a GCE grade C awarded by the University of London School Examinations Board; many of us are keen to ensure that there will in fact be full equivalence between each of the seven GCSE grades and the appropriate GAIM level.

We hope that GAIM assessment will be both continuous and school-based, although an external element at some levels may be necessary to ensure public confidence. It will thus provide throughout the course the diagnostic information for teachers which Frank Tapson values so much. GAIM will have the additional advantage over

GCSE examinations of being available to all pupils, and the early levels have been designed to ensure that even the lower attaining students, given reasonable application, can progress through two or three levels during their secondary school careers.

All this cannot be achieved overnight, but the early levels will be out on trial by September 1985. Hold on Frank, we're on our way!

DR MARGARET BROWN
Executive Director, GAIM
Senior Lecturer in Mathematics
Education
Chelsea College

History today

Sir - I noticed with a certain cynical amusement the report "Dons try to arrest decline of history" (TES, July 6). It is good that university teachers of history should begin to take an interest in the problems of school history, an interest which has not been manifest before and which is long overdue.

However, it is difficult to feel a great degree of confidence about a body called "The History at the Universities Defence Group", which is reported to be "trying to reach pupils before they give up history at the age of 14", and which "has organized a series of regional conferences . . . to allow history dons to air their views".

It is very difficult not to feel that a body with such a title is completely out of touch with reality. The title suggests that the people concerned are merely a group of elitists concerned to preserve their own jobs, and even if this were the case - hopefully it is not - some blander title suggesting that there is a general case for defending history, or even that history is taught in polytechnics and colleges of higher education, might have been tactically wise.

It is difficult to see how the group can reach pupils before the age of 14 without consulting and working with that much maligned body of people, teachers of history in schools. Presumably the dons concerned do not propose to stand at school gates handing out leaflets, so some indication of how they propose to reach secondary school pupils might be wise. Certainly organizing a series of conferences at which dons can air their views is putting the cart before the horse. Part of the problem history faces in schools is precisely this domination of the subject by academic historians, and one of the things the dons have to do is reduce their assumption of their own self importance and begin to listen to what other people, pupils, teachers and administrators, are saying.

As a step toward beginning such a dialogue, it would be useful to see the formation of an Association of History Teachers. Such a body would be open to all members of the profession, whatever the institutions in which they teach, and facilitate the discussion of linked problems. It would be interesting to know whether the dons would conceive their defence of the university sector to extend to participating in such a body.

TREVOR FISHER
49 Lovatt Street
Stafford



Hearing-impaired children need specially trained teachers.

Another handicap

Sir - Are you aware that Sir Keith Joseph is considering a recommendation to withdraw the mandatory specialized training of teachers of hearing-impaired children?

The Parent Teacher Association of the School for the Deaf at Penkhill, Stoke-on-Trent, is extremely concerned. Since we deal closely with hearing-impaired children, we realize the importance of special training to aid the difficult process of language learning. Teachers of the deaf need to have an intimate knowledge of all the technical auditory equipment available. The techniques of speech production and the study of audiology are

not included in the standard training of teachers, but they play an integral part in the training of teachers of the hearing-impaired.

If this recommendation were to be enacted, we feel it would be a most retrograde step. It would impede the education of hearing-impaired children, and would stop them from reaching their full potential.

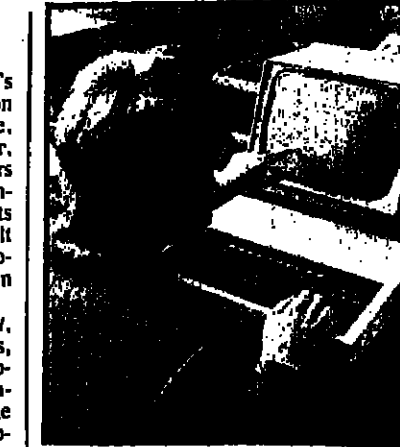
MICHAEL M SOWDEN
Chairman
ELIZABETH WRIGHT
Secretary
Parent Teacher Association
School for the Deaf
The Mount
Stoke-on-Trent

Illuminating guide

Sir - As its title suggests, ILEA's newspaper 164 provides information and advice mainly for young people, especially the unemployed. However, I would be delighted if school teachers considering early retirement or switching careers found its advertisements for courses at ILEA colleges, adult education institutes and for other projects, a source of useful ideas, as Susan Thomas suggests (TES, July 13).

They should also consult *Floodlight*, ILEA's guide to part-time courses, which lists 17,000 classes in 800 subjects including a number on alternatives to conventional employment, like setting up and running a small cooperative. *Floodlight* will be on sale in August, price 50p, at newsagents and bookshops. Copies are also available from the ILEA Information Service, Room 77, County Hall, London SE1 7PB (price £1 to cover post and packing).

NEIL FLETCHER
Inner London Education Authority



Old Qwerty

Sir - B J Stokes (Letters, July 13) is right to draw attention to methods other than keyboard for communicating with computers. But most of these manipulate stored data rather than add to it. With the spread of micro-computing and the decline of centralised data-processing departments, junior employees in business, for instance, will find themselves responsible for the input - via keyboard - of the data with which they deal.

Competence does not require arduous training comparable to secretarial courses that cover high typing speeds and shorthand; merely the introduction, at an early stage of keyboard use, of correct fingering. The QWERTY keyboard has been under attack since it was invented, but has proved very durable, probably because existing skills and machines represent too huge an investment to be abandoned.

It may well be that voice input will

render typing skills redundant within the working life-time of present schoolchildren. But my guess is they will have had a good many years return on this skill investment before that day dawns.

ANNE GLYN-JONES
Department of Geography
University of Exeter

Far sighted

Sir - In her article on the Royal National College's new computing centre, (TES, June 29) Susan Thomas makes a surprising - and unsubstantiated - statement that RNIB is castigated for its slow pursuit of progress. Mrs Thomas is clearly unaware of RNIB's work. RNIB has at Chorleywood College an exciting research project, funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, whereby students using computers can write their examination papers in braille which is then transcribed electronically into print (in strictly confidential conditions) for marking by public examiners.

RNIB's Electronic Office, demonstrating how visually handicapped office workers use adapted up-to-date equipment such as word processors, was also funded by the Government last year. This project has been visited by scores of employers.

These are just two of many examples showing how RNIB, the largest organization of its kind in the world, keeps up with progress around it.

G T WILLSON
Deputy Director General
Royal National Institute
for the Blind
224 Great Portland Street
London W1

Misunderstanding life skills

Sir - The Associated Examining Board's proposal (TES, July 20) to introduce a test in life skills, shows a disturbing and abysmal failure to understand what work in life skills is all about.

I suppose it had to happen, because of the seemingly ineradicable tradition in English education that nothing is valid unless it can be examined. The development of life skills courses in schools is the most heartening evidence of recent years that schools are at last beginning to recognize that their responsibilities to young people are far wider than simply providing them with O-level passes in maths, English or whatever.

It is also a belated response to what many people, in industry and commerce have been saying to us for years; O levels are important and often necessary, but what have schools been doing to ensure that young adults have the confidence, the self-knowledge and the versatility to tackle the many and varied challenges they will meet in a post-industrial society?

The ultimate test of life skills courses, if test there has to be, will lie in that they will eventually be no longer necessary, for we shall have created a generation of parents who will be able



Banking . . . money management skills

to undertake confidently and successfully the task of nurturing their children, a task which has always been rightfully theirs, but one for which far too many have lacked the skills and the expertise.

But if we are trying to reinforce success in young people - and Sir Keith Joseph's recent proposals for the development of profiling rightly emphasize this - then an examination in life skills is the last thing we need. How would you feel if, for your performance in the CSE Life Skills Examination, you were awarded "ungraded"?

ALAN McMURRAY
Principal
Hind Leys College
Loughborough

Valuable test

Sir - Why are Mr Leonard and his National Association of Careers and Guidance Teachers so opposed to a test in life skills? (TES, July 20). It was developed by the AEB in response to many requests from teachers and after many employers had expressed their interest in such a test.

The AEB just does not attempt to cover all of the many different aspects of life skills. It concentrates on some which are common to most courses and which can be tested reliably and validly. The board has never sought to test everything that is learned and has no wish to issue certificates which have no value to their recipients.

One of the aims of a course leading to this test is to give young people knowledge and skills which will enable them to be more effective in obtaining information, making decisions and solving problems. Does Mr Leonard believe that this is "silly, absurd and immoral"? The test covers topics on life style, money management and living in the community. Are these topics silly, absurd and immoral? And why should it be silly, absurd and immoral to give young people the opportunity to take a test and gain a certificate which employers think is worthwhile?

The board's test in life skills has progressed beyond the planning stage. The first test was taken in May by about 2,500 young people from wide ranges of age and ability with considerable success. If, as Mr Leonard predicts, "every commercial company in the land will be asking for it", the board's confidence in its value will be fully confirmed.

J A DAY
Secretary General
The Associated Examining Board
Wellington House
Aldershot
Hampshire

Fully resolved

Sir - Just two factual points on last Friday's leader (TES, July 27). One hundred-and-one local authorities were invited to be represented at the conference of the Council of Local Education Authorities; representatives of 77 i.e.s turned up. Thus, it would be fairer to say about a quarter rather than a third of the i.e.s were not represented. It should go without saying that not all representatives clause or are mandated to vote on every motion.

Much more serious, however, is your statement that the resolution passed by CLEA at its meeting on Wednesday, July 18, restating its unanimous opposition to the "Training for Jobs" White Paper was "quiescently remitted" to CLEA.

The conference did no such thing. I moved the adoption of the CLEA resolution. Philip Merrifield, my vice-chairman, seconded it and the conference enthusiastically endorsed it. Subsequently, the conference rejected six other motions which elaborated the same theme to CLEA.

NICOLE HARRISON
Chairman
CLEA
Eaton House
66a Eaton Square
London SW1

Quote source

Sir - Husserl is accredited with having said about the classroom that "All the student needs to see is thinking going on in front of him". Is anybody able to give me further details of where these words occur?

STUART MITCHELL
Department of General Studies
St Albans College
Hertfordshire

Beard flicks

Sir - I should like to continue the correspondence about the "flicky beard" phenomenon as I have come across some new information.

My son initially drew my attention to the gesture, and I asked my niece and her friend (both 14-years-old attending London schools) about it. They became quite coy and giggly but eventually admitted it was something they did, and that they said "Jimmy Hill" at the same time. I was unclear about why they should have been so embarrassed

but I think I may have found an answer in Desmond Morris's book *Gestures, their origin and distribution* (1979). In this study of people throughout western Europe, Desmond Morris's team looked for evidence for over 20 different non-verbal communications, and tried to find out their meaning. There is a chapter devoted to the "chin flick". It identified three main meanings: disinterest, negation and dislike.

Interestingly it was absent from the UK but common in France and Italy, and occasionally found in the Netherlands

of Europe. The implication seems to be that it is spreading, and like imported words into the language, non-verbal moves over the Channel, too.

Perhaps the reason for the embarrassment of my two teenage friends is understandable from this quote from the book: "The major use of the chin flick is as a disinterest signal, and the French name for it - la barbe (the beard) - gives the clue as to its origin in this capacity. It is a symbolic beard flick, the gesture flipping his real or imaginary beard upwards and forwards at his companion. As a simple

insult, this means 'I point my masculinity at you'.

DR TONY WAINWRIGHT
24 Grove Park
London SE5

Letters for publication should be kept as brief as possible and typed on one side of the paper only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.

If "That Woman" - the name by which Mrs Mary Whitehouse became known to millions in the sixties and seventies - had passed her school scholarship exams at the first attempt, when she was 11, it's quite possible that she'd never have become a teacher, and consequently never the tireless campaigner (or irritating self-publicising moralist, depending on your point of view) that she is today, some 63 years later.

But "Slapdash Mary", as she refers to her younger self, passed at the second attempt and the condition attached to the bursarship she won to Chester City and County School was that she had to become a teacher. In fact before her formal training as a teacher began, she taught for two years, untrained and unpaid.

In many ways, it is easy to see the figure of Mary Whitehouse as the sum of her biographical parts. Born of parents with a passion for education, obliged (and happy) to go into teaching, an unhappy love for a married man, a dramatic religious transformation after an encounter with members of the Christian Oxford Group of the 30s, it all starts fitting neatly into place. After the war, married with a young family, Mary discovers her talent for making herself heard when she organises her first public campaign, to help civilian German war victims. In 1953, she broadcasts to the nation for the first time, unexpectedly having her script "A Housewife's Thoughts on the Eve of the Coronation" accepted by *Woman's Hour*.

Returning to teaching in 1960, as senior mistress of Madeley Secondary Modern School in Shropshire, she finds herself involved with sex education and decides to involve parents in the process. After-school meetings are arranged, for mothers and daughters on one evening, fathers

One a teacher...
The link between teaching and campaigning is that I've always loved children

and sons the next. The year of 1963, the Profumo affair and *That Was the Week That Was* became Mrs Whitehouse's turning point. Dealing with some children who had been reported as "doing what they shouldn't" (the wording comes from Mrs Whitehouse's autobiography) the excuse given by the three girls and two boys, all aged 14, was that they were imitating what they had seen on TV.

In another 1963 incident, Mrs Whitehouse recollects an anxious mother with a recalcitrant daughter telling her: "She (the daughter) was sitting right in front of the TV screen watching one of these plays, and when it got to the sexy part I could see her getting redder and redder in the face, she was so worked up. Then she got up and ran straight out of the house with this boy."

In the same year one of Mrs Whitehouse's pupils gained the idea from a new style talk programme, *Meeting Point*, about pre-marital sex, that people "shouldn't have intercourse until we're engaged."

The rest is well documented history. In 1964, Mrs Whitehouse and a friend started up the Clean Up TV Campaign. Mrs Whitehouse achieved almost instant fame. In 1965, torn between her successful teaching career and her activities fighting (or fanning, depending on your point of view again) the spreading fire of permissiveness, she finally decided to resign from teaching and campaign full time.

"Not to have carried on the campaign would have been like letting the kids down," she tells me in the garden of the famous pink cottage in the Essex countryside which serves as the Whitehouse home, their son's silversmithing workshop and the HQ of the National Viewers and Listeners Association. There's no question that she means kids everywhere, not just her charges.

Mrs Whitehouse saw her choice as the steeper path. Had she chosen to remain in teaching, she says, "I'd have really felt that I'd have been putting my own comfort first... the motivation came because of what I'd seen and for those children for whom I was responsible."

So was there a link between teaching and campaigning? Is there any sense in which Mrs Whitehouse abandoned a small classroom for a larger one with proportionately more "dirty habits"? Not in terms of saying "when I speak I'm teaching people". The link between teaching and campaigning is that I've always loved children and enjoyed working with them. Over the last 20 years the groups I've spoken to the most and the groups I've enjoyed speaking to the most have been sixth formers and students.

Another guiding force in Mrs Whitehouse's campaign has been her deeply felt Christianity. Although she doesn't agree that she has a mission, she does believe that her religious

Nick Baker visits the headquarters of the National Viewers and Listeners Association to meet former senior schoolmistress, Mary Whitehouse.

Show me no evil



feelings have motivated her and at times of stress been her solace.

During the time of the *Romans in Britain* trial (in which Mrs Whitehouse brought a private action against National Theatre director Michael Bogdanov under the sexual offences act for a play which depicted homosexual rape) Mrs Whitehouse writes in her diary: "All the great reformers Wilberforce, Shaftesbury and others saw and used the law for the maintenance and upholding of God's will." But does she see herself in those terms?

"Everybody who is a Christian realizes that God has a plan and purpose for their life. The fact that His purpose for my life has led me to very public paths isn't significant. I don't see myself as anyone special." All the same, Mrs Whitehouse happily agrees that one of her specialities is the quality of drive and sense of purpose that brings her views so successfully to the attention of the public, be it in the media or the courts. And although she says that she rarely mentions her religious convictions in public speaking, she does feel that Judeo-Christian faith is so involved with western democracy that one can't survive without the other.

"You can see glimpses of the breakdown of democracy at the moment with what's happening on the miners' picket lines." It's comparatively rare for Mrs Whitehouse to comment on controversial issues outside her own special field - she declines, for example, to comment on other issues that are currently concerning young people today like drug abuse, nuclear weapons, education today. Does she mean that the picket line violence is caused by religious rather than a political breakdown? She begins to speak more slowly, choosing her words with great care.

"In a democracy it's the quality of the character of individuals that decides the quality of that democracy. Historically, our character is the Judeo-Christian faith."

I steer the conversation toward safer ground. In a recent radio interview Mrs Whitehouse said that she enjoys television now much more than she did

in the 60s and 70s. The things that she and the NVALA still take exception to on broadcast TV are the gratuitous use of bad language and the showing of "unsuitable" feature films.

I'm interested to find out what her response was to series like *The Boys from the Blackstuff*, which in terms of style and content paralleled drama from the sixties like *Cathy Come Home*, and *Up the Junction*, both of which Mrs Whitehouse attacked.

Her response is to ask what sort of effect the bad language and violence, used albeit for serious intent, might have on young people watching. In her mind, the dangers involved in TV's impact on young people outweigh arguments about what adults can be allowed to watch.

What Mrs Whitehouse, at the end of our interview, does want to emphasize is the National Viewers and Listeners Association's stance on video and cable, which are in a sense "hotter" than broadcast TV. Mrs Whitehouse feels that current legislation on obscenity (which will still apply to video under the new Video Recordings Act) isn't enough. The NVALA wants to change the old definition of obscenity which demands proof of "a tendency to deprave and corrupt".

A new definition would define obscenity as "any material of a sexual nature (my italics) or any material portraying violence which tends to harm a reasonable person of mature years." I can't help feeling that this definition, were it to be enacted in law, might be difficult to enforce.

The young taxi driver who calls at the pink house to take me back to the station is disappointed. "I thought I was picking up Mrs Whitehouse." With her still busy schedule of national and international speaking engagements, Mrs Whitehouse is well known among Colchester cab drivers.

"She's a very nice lady," he tells me. "Mind you, when I drive her we never talk about her work. And before she gets in the car I always turn the radio off, just in case she hears something she doesn't like."

The latest craze is strictly for the well-heeled. But Susan Thomas finds a wheeled adventure park in Birmingham catering for the have-nots

Street football is out. BMX is in. Kids whose parents worshipped George Best and prayed for a place in the City squad now dream about making the MongOOSE team and spend every spare hour practising bicycle aerobics - especially in Birmingham. Why?

"Maybe," said Dave Francombe, when we stood at the top of the Birmingham Wheels BMX track and watched his class of juniors hurtle down the slope, over the speed jump and into the suicidal banked turn, "maybe it's because there are no heroes in football anymore."

"Maybe," said Bernard Mouzer, creator of the Birmingham Wheels project, "it is because Bicycle Motor Cross with dozens of weekly meetings and national ratings seven to 17 years olds offers excitement, involvement and success".

Not that much success of course. With more than a million bikes on the pavements only rare talents make the grade. But the rest belong to the club, to the sport, to the manufacturers.

Every weekend they compete in their hundreds. Decked in their expensive gear and factory team colours, they lounge on the sidelines, guarding their expensive machines, talking BMX talk - of hole shorts and camels and endos - and basking in the reflected glory of their cult heroes, the golden boys and girls who ride for factory teams and get expensive sponsorships.

For BMX is very expensive. Kitting out a young rider costs anything from £200 to £700. The costs of competing go into the thousands. Which is a shame because almost everyone (old ladies with wheely baskets excepted) loves it. Parents happily sacrifice weekends to project their own ambitions on to their children; beat policemen love it because it keeps the kids out of trouble - even if it has resulted in a spate of BMX bike thefts. Friends of the Earth love it because it's healthy, ideal for inner city recreation and conservation - even though the way some kids transfer race track skills to the roads has them worried. The only problem is the cost.

BMX is to city kids what the Pony Club is to country children. It is essentially for the well-heeled, the ABC's, the haves, and yet it offers everything the have-nots need and can't afford. Unless, that is, they live in Birmingham.

For Birmingham has one of the most exciting and innovative schemes going - a wheeled adventure park for inner city kids - where they can hire a bike and helmet and spend an hour on one of the best tracks in Europe for 30p. And if they don't have 30p, then says Mr Mouzer, "We hope no one is ever turned away because they can't afford it. We aim to trace those using the track."

Bernard Mouzer of the West Midlands Probation and Aftercare Service, is a solid, quietly spoken, ex-naval man. He conceived Wheels Project idea in 1978. "There had been a spate of vandalism and juvenile crime and the West Midlands police organized a conference to discuss the problem. One of the speakers suggested the day might come when we would need danger parks - places where youngsters could let off steam without endangering or inconveniencing the rest of the community."

Mouzer was seized by the idea. He turned it over for a few days and came up with a modest little plan for Europe's First Wheeled Adventure Park comprising two BMX tracks - one for public use, the other (of such ferocity that seasoned racers burst into tears at first sight of the jumps) was built to international standards to host the European BMX Championships, a roller rink and speed track, an ash track for cycle, motorcycle and banger racing and, the piece de resistance, snaking around the perimeter of the 40 acre site, a Formula III racing circuit.

With one grant from a private company, another from the Inner City Partnership and an initial gift of 30-odd acres of slinking, infested, industrial wasteland from Birmingham City Council, he was in business. Six years on only the Formula III track is unstarted.

Bordesley Green is a miserable place. Derelict factories jostle the battered terraced houses. Unemployment is the order of the day and morale so low, says Mouzer, that people just stay indoors. "We hope that the kids will come to the

Renta wheelie

and then bring their parents to watch the events, whether it's their club races, the speedway or the banger racing".

When it's all finished, he says, the park will revitalize the area. Talk to anyone, kids, workers, organizers or volunteer helpers, listen to the pride with which they describe the achievement, and you believe it.

The BMX club track was built first. It twists and turns, switchbacks and rolls for 300 metres in tight zig-zags. It is used by intermediate treatment groups, school groups, young offenders and local kids.

During school time the track is relatively empty but in the evening, at weekends and in the holidays, the staff cope with 1,000 a day and when the international track is in use for the big events, the whole site is covered with tents, dormobiles, mums, grans, Uncle Tom Copley and all.

Many riders bring their own bikes but those without hire one of the Wheels machines. Designed and tested by the racing cyclists and made on site by a previously unemployed welder, they are now available in a variety of frame sizes to accommodate all ages. They sell like hot cakes, mainly to other probation departments.

I watched the group of eight-year-olds from Regents Park junior school collect their bikes, climb up the steep ramp to the starting grid and then helter skelter down the track. One child stood out. Among all the jeans and track suits a small Muslim girl, stick legs encased in maroon tights, long flapping skirt topped by a long winter coat and an enormous regulation crash helmet.

She mounted precariously, wobbled down the track and fell off, tried again, crashed and

promptly careered into the tyre wall. Dave Francombe picked her up, brushed her down and left her to it.

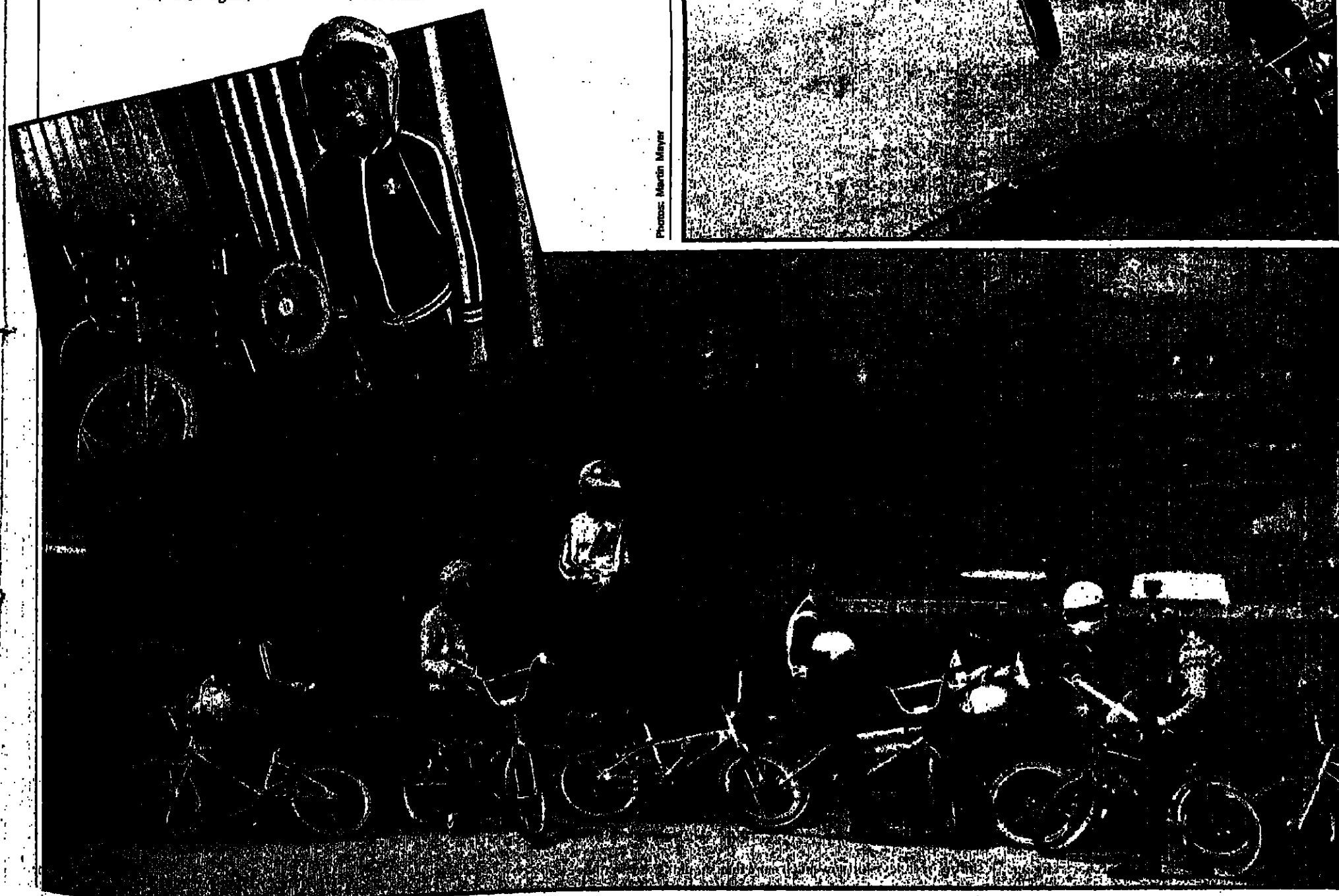
"That one," he said, as the first group rattled past on their second lap and she bit the dust again, "that one lied through her teeth when I asked who could ride, but then she wouldn't have been allowed to come if she hadn't".

He had brought his class to improve their cycling skills, thus becoming safer road users, and to introduce them to an out of school activity. "Otherwise many of them never go further than the local park with their parents".

Mouzer is pleased at the increasing use local schools are making of the scheme. "As if it were a swimming bath or park football pitch. It's impossible to tell whether the children are youngsters in care or local kids... an indicator of how well the scheme works is that with all these children here at a time, there is no bad behaviour on the track and virtually no vandalism".

The club team races in all the big meets and has a formidable reputation. The team coach, captain and manager is a 17-year-old black school-leaver, Trevor Robinson, now Number Two in the country. He is every young rider's hero, talented, friendly and a veteran of the world circuit.

When pro-BMX hit Britain, Robinson was the first of the 17-year-olds to pick up the prize money. He may not be in the same league as the American pros (earning anything up to \$90,000 a year in their early twenties) but he has made a start. He has a job, has begun to win prize money, to travel and to show inner city kids that BMX is fun, exciting and one way out of the inner-city doldrums.



Seeing red over green

TOM SHARRATT

It is easy to understand why the Green Paper, *Parental Influence at School*, aroused such impassioned opposition at the CLEA conference in Newcastle upon Tyne last month (TES, July 27). There are so many deficiencies that one wonders why on earth Sir Keith Jones did not fling it back at his advisers and tell them to come up with something better.

Speaking of powers and responsibilities, it says the Government believes that the present position is confusing, unsatisfactory for parents and teachers, and harmful to good education. Why? No specific evidence of this is offered, and it would be helpful to know the reasoning behind such a statement.

The essential functions of a governing body are to promote and protect the interests of the school and to be a link between the school and the community it serves - functions which were well articulated in the Taylor Report of 1977.

The Green Paper's proposals go far beyond Taylor's ideas. Taylor suggested that membership of governing bodies should consist of equal numbers of local education authority representatives, school staff, parents, and representatives of the local community and said: "No one interest group should play a dominant role."

The Green Paper proposes that governing bodies should have a majority of parents "to reflect the position of parents as partners with the school in the education of their children". Partners, yes - but it is a singularly unequal partnership which denies a proper voice to those who are statutorily and professionally responsible for the children's education.

One of the main concerns at the CLEA conference was the potential

for conflict contained in the Green Paper. What would happen, for instance, if the controlling parent group on a governing body resolved that their mixed secondary school should henceforth be for girls only with an all-female staff and certain subjects excluded from the curriculum?

Educationists would undoubtedly argue that that was not in the best interests of the pupils and the L.E.A. would dig its heels in, but they might have an uphill struggle to convince the parents. The lasting resentment which could arise from such a conflict would most certainly not be in the best interests of the school.

Although the Green Paper proposes to retain teacher governors, it makes no mention of representation for non-teaching staff, yet they are as much a part of a school's community as anyone else who contributes to its success. Nor is it proposed to make a place for representatives of the local community, the "local interest" governors advocated by the Taylor Report.

One striking deficiency of the Green Paper is the absence of any requirement that the names and addresses of governors should be published so that people may know who they are. It is pointless to expect governors to represent any part of the community if the community is prevented from expressing its concerns to them because their identities are kept secret.

Paragraph 20 is particularly worrying. It proposes that if not enough parents come forward to fill all the parent places on a governing body, the L.E.A. should have the right to appoint practical anyone to make the vacancies. Only elected members and employees of the L.E.A. and co-opted members of its education committee would be ineligible.

Such a system would clearly be open to abuse by an unscrupulous controlling party, which would be able to pack a governing body with political placemen - a criticism already levelled at existing governing bodies in some areas.

Sir Keith's ebullient intransigence when he was questioned about the Green Paper at the CLEA conference

did him no credit and raised suspicions about the validity of the consultation which is now supposed to take place. "The Government," Sir Keith declared in answer more than once, "has formed the view..." And if the Government's view is already formed, there will be problems in trying to change it.

Still smarting from the unheralded publication - without any kind of consultation - of the White Paper, *Training for Jobs*, earlier this year, delegates at Newcastle were justifiably sceptical of Sir Keith's intentions, and more than a few left the conference feeling that the most obvious feature of *Parental Influence at School* was that the colour of its cover was wrong.

Parental Influence at School (Cmd 9242), is published by HMSO at £3.75. Tom Sharratt is vice-chairman of Lancashire education committee.



Power? No thanks

JOHN PEASE

The Government proposes to make parents into a controlling majority on governing bodies of county schools, and to ensure they cannot be overruled in the exercise of their functions including control of the range and pattern of the curriculum and finance.

As a parent I do not want control of the curriculum. I may not agree all its aspects and strongly resent that my son dropped valuable subjects to specialize for O and A Levels - ending up with an Honours Degree at the total neglect of any practical skill or education in the sciences. However, that is a result of university entrance requirements and teachers must work within these constraints.

I do not want control since I recognize both the vastness and complexity of education within schools and the limitations in breadth of my outdated knowledge. Even more I object to control passing to a parent down the road: amateur, unskilled but for perhaps a short course - transient, and yet with an open ended right to dramatically change a school and create instability for my child in passing.

The Paper talks about a "partnership", yet seeks to establish a control. It seems unaware that primary schools, at least, are developing into integral parts of their communities with evolving relationships between child, teacher, parent and governor; and that this has been fostered by teachers supporting PTAs and proving they have nothing to hide by parental help and governor visits during the working day.

With three children through the system these contacts allowed my voice to be heard and views consi-

dered; but although I am one of the articulate and active, I accept that the headteachers and teacher must be free to act since they are often the sole defenders of the majority of parents who are not adept in being heard, and are so frequently unrepresented.

Parish and county appointees to governing bodies have respect within their communities. Teachers, and headteachers in particular, have undergone screening to show ability and care for children, and what is more they work within disciplinary procedures to ensure they do not slip to unacceptable standards of efficiency, mental illness, moral instability or non-conformity with the law. I see no safeguards in the selection of the new power group, whose members will have almost untrammelled say without comeback or personal risk.

As things are I can get at the professional. If there is a problem I can discuss it with the teacher and with the head. I can complain to the director, I can seek help and sometimes redress. In the present system there is someone accountable. Now they are proposing to create masters; and who can take action against those made safe and unchallengeable within a legitimized majority?

Over and over again it is stated that there will be no additional finance. This means that reports, annual meetings, ballots and other matters of administration must be found with less to spend for the day to day education of the children.

The allowance for a child at our local primary school works out at 9.5 pence per day or 1.9 pence per education hour. That includes all that is available: from curriculum needs to caretaker equipment and replacing light bulbs.

The people of wealth and privilege who seek to create an automatic absurdity are educated in public schools. Their understanding of the maintained system comes only from observation and not experience.

Review

Variations on a theme

Katya Watter on the under-appreciated historical strength of Georgette Heyer



Georgette Heyer in 1846, ball dress 1820s style - Illustrations from *The Private World of Georgette Heyer* by Jane Alken Hodge, to be published by The Bodley Head on September 8 (£10.95).



How, ask far too many people, can any writer of such obviously and widely attractive books be worthy of serious consideration? They are, of course, thinking of the Regency novels for which Georgette Heyer is best known and are ignoring her detective and historical novels.

The first reply that springs to mind is that however light-hearted the Regency novels may be with frequently improbable but amusing plots, lively heroines and mostly dashing heroes, they can be relied on for absolute accuracy of period detail. No school library should be without the historical novels and they would be the better for some at least of the Regency novels.

Almost all her critics, even her admirers, fail to note the qualities that take her into a totally different category from the normal run of contemporary novelists, of whom Barbara Cartland is perhaps the best known exemplar. Apart from the fact that the whole texture is of thicker weave, she possesses a fine sense of wit allied to that of humour; an unusually delicate ear for nuances of speech; an ability to draw a whole gallery of minor characters at times worthy of Dickens; and young men, social climbers, malade imaginaire, family servants and, almost best of all, practically brainless, wealthy young men-about-town.

She did indeed, as sops for the tax man, write some half dozen pot-boilers which are lively romps and little more - although not one lacks a scene or a character that equals some of her best. Her detective stories in more modern setting provide pleasant, if sometimes rather slow, reading with accurately devised plots and, for the genre, somewhat over-drawn characters. However, one must remember that, as Schopenhauer wrote, it is by the heights a writer can reach that he is to be judged and not by the inevitable ordinariness that he otherwise shares with the

generality. It is high time that prejudice gave way to unbiased appraisal. In her four historical novels and the best of her Regency ones, her claims for praise are well-founded. In the preface to *My Lord John*, published posthumously, her husband writes: "Her research was enormous and meticulous. She was a perfectionist. She studied every aspect of the period - history, wars, social conditions, manners and customs, costume, heraldry, falconry and the chase." Every day of the 40 years covered in the story had its card with all significant events listed.

Her research was as thorough for the romances. She knew to a day when my lady must hand her saque of Paris mud to her dresser and buy new finery (and what finery was and how much she would have to pay for it); when and where to buy floss silk, figured muslin or coquillet ribbon and how much they would cost in different shops, times and towns. She knew the names of the horses her betting men would back and the cant terms in which they would discuss the turf, their horses, their gambling and their "bits of muslin", and the vastly different language they would use to their mothers and their wives.

Equally detailed was her research for *The Infamous Army*, a very successful blend of history and romance. Through its fictional hero, aide-de-camp to Wellington and therefore one of his "family" and *au fait* with all the latest war news and through his courtship of the fatal and beautiful Lady Barbara Childre, Georgette Heyer paints an unforgettable picture of the social and military life during the waiting time in Brussels before the Battle of Waterloo, which, with its immediate aftermath, forms a magnificent and also tragic climax to the book. Any student of battles, child or adult, wishing to reconstruct the Battle of Waterloo with his armies of model soldiers could not do better than work through

the relevant chapters. Wellington's strictures; the difficulties besetting him that led him to call his army "infamous" as well as his quarrels with the Horse Guards; the gossip and doubts and fears of the ton in Brussels; the sentiments of the Brussels themselves; the terrors of the civilians as they listened to the distant guns or the accounts of the deserters and the wounded as they at first trickled and then poured back into the city give a vivid impression of the time.

In *The Spanish Bride* she is provided with a historical pair of lovers and events are seen mainly from their viewpoint - a good one, as Harry Smith was a brilliant soldier who ended up a general and his child bride, Juana, is as romantic a heroine as could be wished for. Georgette Heyer has, of course, used the usual books covering the Peninsular War and, naturally, the *Autobiography of Harry Smith* himself. In addition she writes: "I have not, to my knowledge, left any of the Diarists of the Light Division unread." Battle scenes, the horrors of camping in pouring rain, marching and countermarching, doubts, fears and rivalries are presented through the eyes of those who took part in them.

In these two books dealing with Wellington and his battles leading to the final defeat of Napoleon, she perhaps reached her peak, as in them are perfectly blended the ease and wit with which she handled the Regency romances and the extensive knowledge of the historical events she is describing. Although she herself is said to have been most interested in the time she styled that of

"armour", the novels she wrote set in those times fail to flow with the sense of effortless mastery of these two. Her dialogue, and text too, weighed down with words and expressions of the period read clumsily in comparison, and, in spite of her knowledge, the time is too far distant for her to be able to treat it lightly and to give her characters that sparkling touch that marks her work elsewhere. This does not mean to say that they are not both instructive and interesting.

The Conqueror provides a background to the events leading up to the Norman Conquest, highlighting the personal conflict between William and Harold, between Saxon and Norman and placing them in the perspective of the whole feudal structure of the time. *My Lord John* covers approximately the same period as Shakespeare's *Richard II* and *Henry IV* parts one and two and provides an illuminating background to these plays as history and drama are seen to part company. *Royal Escape*, also impeccably researched, succeeds better than either of these, good though they are, as being considerably nearer our own time, modern in fact and not medieval, she is better able to enter into the minds of her protagonists. Not only the young Charles, later Charles the Second, but the minor characters take on convincing life as when, for example, yeoman-peasant and prince find themselves thrown so closely together.

Of the best of her Regency novels it is difficult to pick out any one that outshines the rest. Perhaps the palm should go to *Venetia*. The charm of its heroine pervades its pages; the Byronic hero is more fully drawn than some of her others; the plot is plausible and the book abounds in memorable characters: her Uncle Hendred, her selfish brothers - one of whom does not even appear in person - her adolescent suitor, so kindly understood in all his silliness; and, finest of all, the worthy Edward. He, with a number of others, could have stepped straight out of Jane Austen, so subtly does his creator catch the piousness and kindness of his tones and the deadly boredom he arouses.

The Civil Contract (very interesting background for life in England in 1815 and the growth of aristocratic interest in agriculture) is memorable for, among others, Jonathan Chawleigh, the disastrously generous vulgar father of the hero's sturdy bride; *The Foundling* for the jolly, run-away schoolboy, Tom Mable and the excellent villain, Liversedge; *Sylvestre* for young Tom Orde and Alice, the innkeeper's daughter; *Frederica* for the exuberant and ever-hopeful Felix; *False Colours* for Sir Bonamy Ripple and Lady Denville, mother of the twin heroes; *Frida's Child* for the set of young sprigs of fashion whose inanity and kindness are equally balanced. And many others.

It is unfortunate that only over-long quotations could give any idea of the variation and control of dialogue that are Georgette Heyer's hallmark in her best novels. It is difficult to think of any other modern author, man or woman, of books of romance or adventure who surpasses her. At times, and on purpose, there is an element of exaggeration, but for the most part it is the delicacy of the variation that provides the amusement and delight.

Meeting in progress

DAVID HALL

Teachers will be pleased that the current pay dispute has at last been allowed to go to arbitration, but I suspect that many of us will have a sneaking regret that this has meant the reimposition of "goodwill". Certainly the absence of "goodwill" has made the last few weeks quite tolerable.

There is of course a less desirable side to all this for it has not been possible to hold meetings. Now this is a very serious matter for it has meant that career making has had to come to a halt: empire building has had to stop; it has not been possible to catch the head's eye. But now that, to misquote,

Kcats, "the season of mists and mellow uneasiness" is with us once more, I thought that I would offer a few hints to the aspiring career teacher who wishes to make use of meetings to make progress.

It must be realized that the great set piece meeting is a perfectly normal teacher response to the sort of discussions and problems which elsewhere in public life can lead to pitched battles or the pelting of public figures with anything that comes to hand. In such situations as these, teachers normally hold meetings and then issue masses of paper to a divvying band of colleagues who have not been able to secure exemption from operating such directives (those on scales one and two).

Obviously one has to speak out at a staff meeting in a manner which will advance one's career. I would imagine that most people have already grasped one basic rule which is never to suggest the type of radical changes which will involve the senior management team

in extra work or responsibilities. This automatically rules out discussion of a tighter disciplinary code.

It is vastly preferable to introduce the suggestion of a major community project ideally involving as many of the staff as possible. Such a project might involve the restoration of a derelict tramcar, or the afforestation of the more heavily vandalized areas adjacent to the school buildings. Such proposals enjoy the advantages of offering favourable publicity for the school, and if the scheme for consideration involves the technical and the scientific departments in constructional activities at all, it will recommend itself even more strongly to the head.

A more subtle approach is to avoid taking the lead yourself. Any idea can be planted in the mind of an aspiring careerist which will contravene the basic rule discussed above. When this is aired at the next staff meeting you are presented with an opportunity to throw out a series of "off the cuff"

wrecking amendments which you have been working on for the past fortnight, and thus gain the lasting gratitude of senior staff.

It is easy to overlook opportunities for advancement which arise from what might be termed "procedure". For instance, even the method of entry into a staff meeting is something requiring careful thought: it should never be undertaken lightly. I personally recommend a slight delay of from three to five minutes after the start of the meeting for maximum impact. The effect can be heightened by making a rushed entry carrying a bundle of papers in your hand. The idea here is that an impression is created that it is only with great difficulty that you have managed to pull yourself away from vitally important administrative duties.

A word of caution is needed here for it is possible to make errors on timing. For instance it is necessary to allow the chairperson time to subdue the normal gossip and general conversation which

characterize the first few minutes of any teachers' meetings; otherwise your entry will be unnoticed. Conversely an entry delayed too long can be damaging in a departmental sense for your sharp eyed colleague who notices that you are not yet present, will immediately move that the annual share out of the capitation allowance should now take place, your subject area being unaccountably overlooked.

An early departure from a staff meeting cannot in any circumstances be advised however, for it will be recognized solely as a move dictated by the approach of the evening rush hour.

I hope that I have made the point that the return of "goodwill" need not be viewed as an unmitigated disaster. A situation is created once more which offers scope for a sharp-witted teacher to make progress towards the sort of professional salary which eludes about 99 per cent of us at present.

David Hall is head of history in a Liverpool comprehensive.

Offspring fever

The Redundant Male. By Jeremy Cherfas and John Gribbin. The Bodley Head £9.95. 0 370 30523 X

The Redundant Male is misleading. It sounds like a provocative assertion, but Jeremy Cherfas and John Gribbin's book in fact offers merely a supposition based on biological and ergonomic research; that should we not reproduce sexually, then the human male would be redundant. The authors ask, why is the human male not redundant? Why do humans not reproduce asexually?

The fundamental reason, they suggest, is survival through variation. The alternative to sexual reproduction is cloning. Sexual reproduction which provides a wide range of genetic shuffling makes for hereditary variation, which in turn gives rise to change in population, and that change itself constitutes evolution and thus survival. The inflexibility of cloning would create a species which would die out because unfit to cope with a changing environment. The clearest presentation of the evolutionary possibilities of asexual and sexual reproduction is made by

George C Williams (State University of New York) in his analogy of the lottery: asexual reproduction is like buying a stack of identical lottery tickets - if that number is a winner then you will be a winner; sexual reproduction is buying half as many tickets, but each with a different number - if the winning number is uncertain this gives you a better chance than a stack of Xerox copies. The argument for diversity is a strong one: the majority of species surviving now reproduce sexually - the asexual species, according to Cherfas and Gribbin, largely having succumbed to environmental change.

Cherfas and Gribbin argue that a female who produces equal numbers of male and female offspring seems to waste half her genetic potential in sons; women could have twice as many descendants if they had parthenogenetic daughters and no sons. Certainly, this concept of genetic materialism is a purely scientific observation, though the reader could be misled by the often jaunty diction in which the book is written. Furthermore, the advantage of producing a large number of descendants in the short term is a dubious one if in the long term it means the extinction of the species.

Obviously, an individual that survives long enough to reproduce has succeeded, to some degree, in the environment in which it lives. But as Cherfas and Gribbin admit, its offspring may be faced with a slightly different environment, and so it may be worth shuffling the genetic pack, which is where the success of sexual reproduction

comes in. There is a conflict between the fitness of the individual here and now and the long-term success implicit in the flexibility of sexual reproduction, and different strategies are adopted towards a resolution.

Some species, like the greenfly, adopt the r-strategy, that is, go for all-out reproduction of as many new individuals identical to the successful parent as possible, which provides for the most rapid increase in numbers under stable environmental conditions. The alternative - the K-strategy - is to put care at a premium. This is advantageous if the ecological niche inhabited by the species is already full, so that offspring with a slight advantage over their neighbours will do best in a crowded world. K-strategists, among which humans number, bear few offspring and carefully nurture them.

The importance of bringing up baby leads Cherfas and Gribbin to a roundly traditional view of gender and sex-roles. The success of the female lies in her ability to produce and care for as many offspring as possible, and the male's "duty" is to impregnate the maximum number of females. The authors assert that mankind today is "mildly polygynous", and support their case by the dimorphism of males and females. There is, they suggest, a correlation between the degree of sexual dimorphism and average harem size. Examining that correlation in 22 species, the authors find that with its average excess of height of about 8 per cent, "man should have an average harem size of between two and three, very close

to the true state of affairs". Mankind, however, differs from the rest of the animal kingdom through its ability to place things in some sort of moral order. Human behaviour is not satisfactorily explained in terms of biological imperatives. Human females, for example, do not restrict their coupling to a period when they are on heat. The theories of human female "continual receptivity" (or "sequestered ovulation", as it is less chauvinistically called) are thoroughly masculine in orientation. According to the men of science, the human female hides her fertility either in order to keep the male continually interested in her, or to cuckold her mate - sequestered ovulation means that he will not know when she is fertile and so she can be fertilized by a preferential male on the sly. Thus human biology can be used to confirm the misogynist's fear.

It is difficult to see the aim of this book (meretriciously packaged to look like a potboiler). It's too technical for the lay reader, yet lacks the requisite stringency of scientific discourse. But it is anyway disingenuous to conclude that the reproductive urge is the *sine qua non* of copulation in humans. Contraception - even the "combined pill" which totally suppresses ovulation - has not produced any drop in libido. Sexual attraction might be explicable in terms of subliminal gene-picking, but the wisdom of the glands has a limited application.

Nigella Lawson



AXEGRINDER

For most teachers, August feels wonderfully different: it is the only month completely free of school. The seemingly endless summer term, with all its disruptions, has finally petered out. One may relax, quite legitimately, without feelings of guilt/panic about things that still need doing. There is time to consider, preferably from afar, all those frenetic, yet somehow dispiriting, closing rituals of yet another school year.

Primary schools aim to end things with a bang - special outings, "dramatic presentations" by the leavers, summer "fayres" and parents-to-come-and-meet-your-child's-teacher evenings (where you plan to say what you really think about Darren/Samantha/that dreadful Bradley but chicken out at the last moment).

Try getting hold of the energetic head of Sunnybank Primary at this time of year. "What a chance to say 'Don't you know, she's rehearsing'!"



ring back first thing in the morning, it were you... about ten to eight. Elsewhere, on the trendier side of the tracks, the summer fete has absorbed the energies of the school for weeks. This year's target is a "daisywheel" for last year's micro. Parental purses are relentlessly milked... cash, covenants, even credit cards, are accepted.

But at a nearby rival, the "Fayre" appears to have been reconceptualized, various pushy "gentlemen", law-ers, architects and media folk, have moved on... or at least their children have; most of them to independent schools. Now the pursuit of profit has been eschewed in favour of gentility.conviviality. Mother, in a downy skit-

off bunches of "country" flowers, non-competitive "sideways" are encouraged and cooperative games are organized on the grass. It's all enlivened only by the activities of the schoolkeeper who has sampled rather too much of an innocuous-seeming summer punch. In the end, he too falls asleep.

At Culture and Anarchy Comp the end of the year is marked by a celebratory lunch. The pupils, those that are, who are still attending, are sent home quite extraordinarily early. The CDT people are well into the second bottle (each) and have sprouted. Havin'as. The director of music edges a little closer to the school

The PE staff, already a little flushed, struggle in with polygons of real ale. Bottles of wine emerge from staff briefcases, carrier bags and the bio lab fridge. There is some gentle rivalry: "Aren't you going to let yours breathe?" "I wasn't going to bring my '71." "Quantity rather than quality for me."

The meal progresses towards the leaving speeches and tokens of esteem. Various colleagues, red-faced and slightly sweating, have become unusually affable towards each other. The CDT people are well into the second bottle (each) and have sprouted. Havin'as. The director of music edges a little closer to the school

Sporting chance

Olympic Grandstand
BBC1.

The Games of the 23rd Olympiad of the Modern Era have been less pompously designated the Hollywood Olympics, the Hamburger Olympics and the Television Olympics; but whatever you call them does not alter the fact that the sun, when out in Los Angeles, has long since set in London, so the BBC's live coverage is mainly for insomniacs. Armchair athletes with normal sleep patterns can get recorded highlights at various times through the day, but that is not quite the same as seeing it when it happens. You could always wait for the film.

Not such a bad idea, perhaps. Leni Riefenstahl and Kon Ichikawa made sense of what happened in Berlin and Tokyo and their films were to recorded highlights what a steak is to a hamburger. The Olympics are rather more than a mere sporting event, and television good at relaying live action, is pretty hopeless when it comes to conveying its wider significance. Compare the lighting of the Olympic torch in the early hours of Sunday morning (London time), with the stunning sequence in Ichikawa's *Tokyo Olympiad*. The small screen could not measure up to an occasion involving Rafer Johnson and the granddaughter of Jesse Owens.

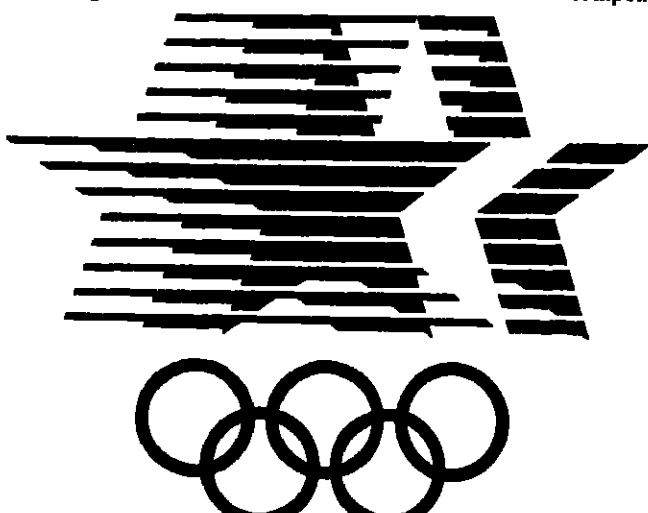
It was adequate, however, for most of the Opening Ceremony. Eighty-four grand pianos playing Germaine was surely a bid for a Guinness record rather than an Olympic one, though the rest of the proceedings said something about the first Games to include Busby Berkeley's favourite sport of formation swimming, and having said it once, said it again, louder. President Reagan, perched above it all in his

box, might have been awarding marks for artistic impression. He was doubtless pleased by the rapturous welcome given to the Romanian team. Officially, no one likes the East European boycott except the competitors who will capture their medals, but the Olympic spirit also has to do with encouraging national rivalries in the language of sport.

The BBC code does not allow it to become over-zealous in the pursuit of an international outlook, either. A Chinese weightlifter has been shown,

this heat". At the poolside, also done to a turn, the commentator noted "a very round warm of applause".

Most of the athletics and the clichés are still to come. Unlike the Opening Ceremony, nothing from now on is planned and, for the most part, artistic impression is incidental to the effort to travel higher, faster or further than anyone else on the field. Hence the moments of drama and emotion for which viewers will be persuaded to stay up well past their usual bedtime. Of the thousands of competitors who



because he dropped his weight, and the French and Uruguayans made guest appearances when a punch-up developed in their basketball match, but otherwise "British interest" is what counts, the others being there to provide the competition. The "Olympic channel" cannot afford to be too Olympian. On the other side, viewers are told "the good news": they can get the results on Oracle. ITV keeps quiet about the bad news, which is that the pictures are with the BBC.

The live commentary, too. Gem collectors have had plenty to delight them already: we heard the crowd "roar a seal of approval", learned that the weather wasn't "taking any of the steam" out of a cyclist's legs, though "the riders must be done to a turn in

marched behind their national flags on that opening day, most will go home with a sun tan and little else. But by Monday, Steve Lundquist knew that he had his first gold medal and a world record in the breaststroke. He stood on the rostrum as the American anthem was played, his hand trembling, and looked as if nothing could ever harm him again. There was the same look on the faces of Carrie Steinsefer and Nancy Hogshead as they accepted their joint gold medal in the 100 metres freestyle and no doubt we shall see it again many times before the Closing Ceremony. The honour of taking part explains the glory of those who win.

Robin Buss

Elegant stooges

Playing Shakespeare.
London Weekend Television for
Channel 4, Sundays.

In the series *Playing Shakespeare*, which started last Sunday, actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company play elegant stooges to the renowned RSC director John Barton, who explains various ways in which actors can come to a fuller understanding and a better performance of Shakespeare's texts. It is hard to believe that with all the intelligent people involved in its production, nobody ever stood back from it, perched in its ghastly state, and refused to let it proceed.

It's the sort of programme that can make a basically sympathetic viewer very angry. While the purpose is laudable and the main presenter - Barton - personable and interesting, the tone is so false and the direction so primitive that the whole enterprise seems extremely patronizing. Basically what happens is that Barton, with a hopeful, genial expression, talks straight to camera about Shakespeare, then asks his band of luminaries to provide examples. So far, so all right. What is unpalatably unconvincing is

the contribution made by the actors. Quite often they provide transparent feints: "Can you start by saying something about elision?" Sometimes they are mouthpieces for the programme's on-going thesis: "Elizabethan actors had very little rehearsal, virtually none in our terms." And sometimes - occasionally - there is an unscripted spontaneous thought. In all cases the effect is to emphasize a unanimity of ideas which is quite deadly. A nervousness pervades the presentation, a feeling that if a discussion were to break out the point of the enterprise would be lost. So Barton congratulates his actors for voicing his thoughts, and they are proud of his approval. Minor disagreements (which, in the first two programmes anyway, are mostly with Ian McKellen) are glossed over and forgiven instead of being picked up and expanded. And if that weren't enough, everything is said direct to camera, confirming that this is a rehearsal dis- play, and that genuine interaction hasn't been allowed for.

What is missing is risk. The actors are given safe, untaxing things to do, they're protected from making fools of themselves; consequently they glow with horrid complacency. Barton too is

protected - he has no time to stop and rethink, even if he wanted to. It's in telling contrast to the Open University's recently launched Shakespeare series, where John Russell Brown makes his actors really work, think, experiment and prove their worth. The actors in *Playing Shakespeare* are just there to show what they can do - and they don't do themselves justice.

What is worse, nor does Barton. It's because he's started at the wrong end: instead of tackling a real rehearsal, explaining points as they arise, he explains schematically through the "problems" that actors can have with Shakespeare, tackling on mini-performances to illustrate his points (and not, apparently, noticing when they don't). Later programmes will look at scenes and characters in more depth. One hopes - vehemently - that the bad impression of the early programmes will be rectified then.

Lynne Truss

Playing Shakespeare by John Barton, with a foreword by Trevor Nunn, is published by Methuen at £9.95 and £4.95.

Visible connexion

Children's Art from Court Lodge Comprehensive School.
Tate Gallery until August 14.

Despite the fact that this is a small exhibition tucked away in the foyer of the downstairs restaurant, it could very well turn out to be a historic occasion. It is certainly the first time that work by schoolchildren has been shown in the Tate Gallery. For all its promotion, popularity and undoubtedly influence on many modern artists, children's art is generally kept apart from that of adults and professionals - as if an unbridgeable abyss existed between them. But the influence is both ways and many art-teacher training courses now recognize this by including a

musicians and galleries component. As a post-graduate student at Brighton Polytechnic, Nicholas Pateron's curriculum development project had been a number of twentieth century painters - like Bonnard and Matisse - and so, when he went to do teaching practice at Court Lodge Comprehensive School in Horley, he decided to bring 25 second, third and fourth-year pupils to the Tate to see for themselves. Restricting the children to coloured crayons, he encouraged them to examine how David Hockney had achieved his effects in this medium and then copy what they had learned in still-life of fruit, vegetables, sweets and Coca-Cola cans.

The results, though unexceptional, are revealing and instructive. Bonnard, Matisse and Hockney are undoubtedly sophisticated artists but each sought ways of overcoming the sterility of their academic training. The example of children's art was not the only influence but it is clearly evident and perhaps the most exciting thing about the pictures by these 12 to 14-year-olds is that in making a visible connexion between the art of younger children and adults, they show how that artificial abyss can be crossed without loss of vitality. Perhaps the Tate Gallery will now seriously consider including children's art in its permanent collection.

Michael Clarke

Garden paths

Brian Morton reports on the Arts Council allocations announced last week

"You'll go mad, having to deal with boring cultural bureaucrats." "Worse than that, my dear Wystan. I shall become one." In Arts Council circles, and especially literature circles, names are not so much dropped as smashed down like vodka glasses. The parallel trait is a kind of weary amusement, diffidence, best illustrated by the Council's literature director Charles Osborne (first-name terms with Auden) who achieved a curious kind of fame by suggesting that his job, and his section, were by and large irrelevant to the country's real cultural needs.

Short of appointing Zhdanov and Lunacharsky, Arts Council functionaries are bound to feel schizophrenic pull between the boring bureaucratic journeywork of arts management and the higher-flown nature of the product. Osborne's *the-a-ide* with Auden conveys that vague embarrassment of the cultured having to define and price-tag culture: numbers allocations, bums-on-seats, the bottom line. In contemporary political terms, the Arts Council represents a profoundly unpopular line, institutionally opposed to free-market, non-intervention and de-centralization.

The Council's new strategy document took the name dropping into some odd but currently odd corners. Chairman Sir William Rees-Mogg took his text, *The Glory of the Garden*, from Kipling and managed to drop Jefferson, Locke and Pope. Nor St Francis; not quite. The garden metaphor was a copy-writer's gift, yet another example of the Council's public relations *felo da se*. The imagery of weeding, watering and dunging now seems so inextricably bound up with Peter Sellers' feebly gardener in *Being There* as to be immediately absurd. *The Glory of the Garden*, considering it was the Council's first major self-examination in 40 years, was a woeful, populist time-lark that never managed to hide its ideological origins.

Sir William declares himself a "Keynesian in the arts"; that is, Milton Keynesian; Milton Friedman. There is the heavy implication that he is no other kind of Keynes-ite. Spending was to be rigorously curtailed and, crucially, devolved to Regional Arts Associations. Beauty and smallness hold hands.

Keynes had established local offices in the original Arts Council to counterbalance London's metropolitan dominance. In 1956, they were abolished, replaced in more or less token fashion - by the R.A.s. Forty years on, with Keynesian economics a dead letter, Keynes' plan "to decentralize

and disperse the dramatic and musical and artistic life" of the country becomes a live possibility. With dramatically reduced funding, though, there is just a hint of *saute qui peut*.

The appeals hearing at the Arts Council on July 25, stimulated by a heavy postbag, saw some hard dicking and, in the event, some surprising changes of heart. Four theatre companies - Gateway Chester, Harrogate White Rose, Wakefield Tricycle of London and Temba - had their grants given reduced funding. Most surprising, giving its director's unwillingness to plead the case, was the increase of £60,000 in the literature allocation, allowing for a few writers' bursaries and a scheme for distribution of small press poetry books. Perhaps predictably, the literature lobby had been the most articulate in its own defence; the Society of Authors in particular was quick to seize on the cues provided.

Quite how a leaner and fitter arts establishment will help fertilize the "empty beds and neglected shrubberies" isn't clear. In any allocation that is made to seem competitive, lack or withdrawal of funding is bound to appear punitive. The added sting, perhaps, is the implication that *the Glory of the Garden* has induced several flowers to bloom pre-emptively.

Secretary-General Luke Rittner was delighted to note that "in many cases the strategy has led companies to strengthen their own organizations, including the artistic quality of their work." This is neither Keynesianism nor Jeffersonism but raw Darwinism. Any weeding, watering or dunging, to make the arts competitive will turn the Council's quaint, bucolic metaphor into something closer to a jungle or, better, a Grand Prix: over-technical, politicized, bristling with lures, where the artist disappears beneath the back-up, the protective covering, the noise and smoke of competition. Already the air is thickening with the exhaust of over-revered arts groups. Non-intervention, unless it is total, is no more than a euphemism for neglect and elitism; devolution (as anyone in Scotland will tell you) is on the one hand a sop and on the other a neatly antipathetic way of passing the buck.

"We would like to see the whole garden in bloom, and all the people walking through it to enjoy the flowers." Gardens never bloom wholly; they bloom in season and in turn. And it seems a little crass and elitist to hup on the flowers when most people, certainly most artists, are more in need of the vegetables.

TIE provision

National Conference on Theatre in Education and Young People's Theatre.
University of Warwick, July 20-22.

A commitment must be made by the Arts Council of Great Britain and by local education authorities to the principle of theatre in education and young people's theatre as a free service and a national provision. A priority must now be given to the maintenance and development of this work by arts funding bodies, local education authorities and the teaching profession.

These were two of a wide-ranging set of proposals agreed at a recent national conference on young people's theatre at the University of Warwick. The conference, organized jointly by Arts Council and the Association of Regional Arts Associations, brought together over 150 representatives of theatre companies, local authorities, training establishments, arts funding bodies and arts education. It was the culmination of a series of regional meetings to improve general knowledge and understanding of theatre work with and for young people and to look at ways of maintaining and improving provision. Inevitably, the agenda of the national conference became dominated by the funding implications of the Arts Council strategy document, *The Glory of the Garden*.

Among a cluster of proposals opposing the closure of regional arts centres, a call for a new national theatre was made.

Ken Robinson

A full report of the conference is to be published by the Arts Council.

Fire and foolery

Flashpoint. By Tom Kempinski.
Young Vic Theatre Studio.
The Happiest Days of Your Life. By John Dighton.
RSC Barbican Theatre.
A Little Like Drowning. By Anthony Minghella.
Hampstead Theatre.
Wild Honey. By Anton Chekhov (version: Michael Frayn)
National (Lyttelton) Theatre.

Written in 1979, *Flashpoint* was produced at New End, transferred to Mayfair, sold as a film. It is an argument play: different sides of the debate being allotted to various spokesmen. Six ill-assorted soldiers in Northern Ireland, detailed as a firing squad to execute a comrade condemned for desertion under fire, argue the morality or otherwise of obeying orders. Confined overnight in a tiny barrack-hut, their closeness contributes to the tension among them which finally erupts into violence. One goes berserk, shoots another, holds the rest to ransom demanding a free pardon for the condemned deserter and for himself. That being granted, we learn that there was no execution, it was all a psychological game testing the unit's readiness to kill their fellows.

The sham being revealed comes as no surprise: the loquaciousness of the mouthpieces having strained credulity to breaking-point. Repeated devices introduced at intervals to hype the action garnered diminishing returns; Irish Question polemizing became increasingly facile. A competent cast did their best, with director Roland Jarellero, to make a success of a characterless piece which did not deserve revival.

Richly deserved the revival of *The Happiest Days of Your Life* certainly is, but why is the RSC doing it? Its enduring popularity with amateur and professional alike, leading a splendid cast. The characters are those we know as Chekhovians: retired colonel, local doctor, schoolmaster, student, landowners in debt to wealthy parvenu. The difference is that they are richly comic, thrown into wildly farcical situations. Nostalgia and elegy give place to romance and laughter. This rediscovery is what a National Theatre is for.

Those who saw the original 1948 production may find Peggy Mount's Miss Whitechurch somewhat broad and bullish compared with the feline do-

licacy and ruthlessness of Margaret Rutherford, but she is a mainstay in a flawed production. Maria Aitken (Gossage); Richard O'Callaghan (Billings); John Carter (looking oddly like E. M. Forster as the headmaster); Griffith Jones (Rainbow) all contribute expertly to the fun. Paul Greenwood (Tasell), nerve-struck wordless on the opening night, was in fine form on the second night earning rounds of applause for splendid foolery. The aged pupils strained belief, as did some of director Clifford Williams' tricky additions. Nevertheless, it makes you ache and weep with laughter; whether it is what a subsidized company should be doing is another question.

Questionable, too, is why Anthony Minghella's *A Little Like Drowning* reached production. A family chronicle narrated by Grandma Leonora, it recounts her memories of marriage to Alfredo and his miserable consequences. Short scenes, interspersed with selections from grand opera, tell a tale of passion and possession among ordinary Italian folk in Italy, London, Dublin. Hardly sparing time to establish character, time, place, Minghella drives on to a melodramatic climax in which Alfredo dies locked in a lavatory screaming for a priest, making his confession through the door. Badly written, crudely directed (what is Cal doing singing in a 1930s concert?), confusingly designed, unconvincingly acted (except Morag Hood as Alfredo's mistress), *A Little Like Drowning* is a mess of biographical details undigested: granddaddy piety misplaced.

Good, then, to turn to the best new play in London: Chekhov's *Wild Honey* (formerly *Platonov*), marvelously realized by Michael Frayn from the original manuscript's six-hours playing time. Superbly staged (John Gutter) and directed (Christopher Morahan), it has Ian McKellen at his brilliant best, leading a splendid cast. The characters are those we know as Chekhovians: retired colonel, local doctor, schoolmaster, student, landowners in debt to wealthy parvenu. The difference is that they are richly comic, thrown into wildly farcical situations. Nostalgia and elegy give place to romance and laughter. This rediscovery is what a National Theatre is for.

John James



R B Kitaj: Cecil Court, London, WC2 (The Refugees), 1983-84

Sustained encounter

The Hard-Won Image: Traditional Method and Subject in Recent British Art.
Tate Gallery until September 9.

Wherever you put the boundary between figurative and abstract images in art, this exhibition is unequivocally focused on the former despite the presence of pictures that seem at first to be far removed from ordinary visual experience. Dedicated to the painter-director of the Beaux Arts Gallery, Helen Lessore, who between 1951 and 1965 vigorously supported a large number of unfashionable realists, the show takes a stand against the long-established practice of paying attention to the latest 'ism' at the expense of what is more traditional and sometimes more enduring art.

At the centre of the exhibition are large canvases by John Lessore, Peter Greenham and John Wonnacott of art student and prolonged study of the life-model, which has provided the basis for still in drawing and painting for centuries. But whether the images of the nude, still-life, landscape or figure-composition are meticulously assembled, as they are in the work of William Coldstream, Patrick George

and Euan Uglow, worked and reworked, as they are in Leon Kossoff, Frank Auerbach and Lucien Freud, or apparently snatched from fleeting experiences, as they are in Francis Bacon, Howard Hodgkins and Adrian Stokes, most of these artists reveal a sustained encounter with subject and medium that has been largely absent from recent avant-garde art.

With over half the exhibits from the Tate's permanent collection, there are few surprises for the seasoned gallery-goer but there are a number of enlightening comparisons and contrasts. How much more at home Peter Blake, Hockney and Kitaj seem in the company of Coldstream, Lawrence Gowing and Michael Andrews and how very different in their emblematic, even hieratic imagery are Craigie Aitchison and Cecil Collins from any of these. As different, in fact, as Henry Moore's Reclining Figure is from Raymond Mason's lifesized, painted tableaux-vivants.

Yet for all the exhibition's range and polemical thrust, the outcome could easily be a renewed polarization of figurative and abstract art instead of the intended redress in balance between our evaluation of novel and traditional means.

M C

Europe sets the stage

Initial surprise soon turned to quiet concentration as an audience of government officials, teachers and townspeople of Neuchâtel followed the route of the promenade production with which director Bernd Koln brought to a close the Second European Children's Drama Festival.

One hundred and eighty 13 to 15-year-olds from 11 West European countries took part in the two week residential course in theatre arts at Collège du Mail, which was arranged through the Council of Europe's cultural department, and inaugurated as a biennial event in 1982.

This year the host country was Switzerland, had poured into the festival 268,000 Swiss Francs (£89,000) in grants from central government, from the canton, the town council of Neuchâtel and the Council of Europe's cultural fund. But to Hans Dörig, from the Swiss Ministry of Culture, it was money well spent: "It's not enough to talk about good European relationships, you have to build them, and what has pleased me most is that it's been an active festival with children and adults of many countries making and building something together, not just talking of good intentions."

Active it certainly was, with a strong emphasis on hard work: three hours of workshops from 9am-12 every morning followed by a cooked lunch in the school dining room and two further hours of concentrated work from 2.00-4.00pm. Yet no problems of absenteeism or reluctant late-coming disrupted the sessions. Although different attitudes to discipline created some initial tensions about leisure time - the Danish, Dutch and British children being used to a more liberal régime than their European counterparts - no such difficulties invaded the workshops where groups of up to 15 children worked with obvious enthusiasm at their chosen course, under the direction of a professional theatre practitioner.

Some of the most noisily extrovert youngsters showed unexpected powers of concentration and eagerness to contribute ideas. Nor did language prove much of a barrier, though most groups contained at least half a dozen different language speakers. All the activities - costume making, scenic design, mask making, music, lighting, mime, movement, dance skills - relied only marginally on language.

The final production reflected interesting contrasts showing once again that the most expert practitioners are not always the best teachers. Hans Dörig admitted that with hindsight he felt this was the one weakness of the festival and hoped next time that more importance would be given to teaching skills.

In the last few days of the festival the pupil-centred style of the workshops changed to firm, direct instruction (a change which some teachers criticized), as director and artists strove to mould the different activities into a polished, theatrical production. The school and its naturally dramatic setting of wooded, hilly grounds was transformed into a fantasy world for a series of short scenes and tableaux vivants on the theme of "Dreams and Realities".

A capacity for spontaneous drama was also demonstrated when the Finns mounted an evening's entertainment which concluded with a mini version of the Scandinavian Festival of Light. After the formal lighting of the candles, procession, and dance were over, one of the Finnish boys called on everyone to place their nightlights on the rocks and ledges surrounding the school's patio. "To stand for the new friendships we have made here." As the lights fluttered and glowed in the shadows the children linked in arms in a circle and began singing everything they could remember from the repertoire of their own international culture: pop music.

Ann FitzGerald

Literary competition

Competition No 53. Report by Scylla. asked for plausible but quite inaccurate derivations of nursery rhymes. What I got was delightful inaccuracy and a plausibility which set me wondering whether they were the "real McCoy" (which expression derives of course from a mace of the authenticity of which was established in the House of Lords). George Moor, who sent in several mini-entries, was a master at this: how obvious that *Baa Baa Black Sheep* stemmed from Charles II and his wool-tax, Dame Nellie and her boy Duke in St Martin's Lane - how could it be otherwise? I believed too in D A Prince's depiction of Miss Muffet as Robert Peel and the low-fat-dairy products tax. The most sensible comment was from those who explained short nursery rhymes: some versions of the long *Sing a Song of Sigmund Freud* not credible for any but the first verse.

I find it quite impossible to adjudicate between the five winners. Each has its individual merits, all the style of a pernickety researcher, and all of them staggering in the way they lie "like troopers" (which expression derives of course from the Tripos where undergraduates perpetually lied in Latin), £5 to each of them.

Opening the conference, Luke Rittner, Secretary General of the Arts Council, emphasized the high priority now given by the Council to education. In 1985/6 the Education Unit's budget allocation will be almost doubled from £160,000 to a total of £310,000. More specifically, "a rough estimate indicates that about 20 per cent of the current drama allocation is spent on theatre in education and young people's theatre". Given the proportion of young people in the population and the young importance of the work in question, however, the conference urged an increase in this to 33 per cent of the drama allocation including the national companies. The Arts Council has agreed to take account of the 20 conference proposals in formulating a detailed policy for theatre in education and young people's theatre to be published later this year.

The Queen of Hearts. The origins of this rhyme are lost in the mists of mythology but we can deduce from Ovid's lovely tale, *Sagittus Venus* (which is the Love Goddess (Queen of Hearts) made some arrows, or darts, possibly on the forge or anvil of Vulcan, the hammer-man, her husband. Cupid, her son (the Knave of Hearts) certainly stole the darts and has mischievously been punning on them ever since. The episode of the King beating the Knave "full score" refers to Vulcan's revenge, *cum mak-*

led the Cornuarii when the crater exploded. The historicity of Icarus' landing is confirmed by numerous finds in the area and the Roman "mus" still survives in Mousely.

George Moor

Little Jack Horner. The delineation of an adolescent rite of passage is too obvious to require explanation. However, a glance at Levi-Strauss's analyses of these events among the *Jakoma* people of Northern India proves beyond doubt the genesis of this fragment of lore.

The *Jakoma* male adolescent is banished to the far corners of the territory, where he is obliged to hunt, kill, and eat the raw entrails of, a *Krishna's Pie* (a species of myna bird), after which with a complex (and secret) manipulation of the left *thumb*, which has been specially grown and sharpened, he plucks one of the tail *plumes*, which he is then entitled to wear. If this is successfully achieved the omens are good for the youth's passage to manhood.

Gerard Benson

The Queen of Hearts. The origins of this rhyme are lost in the mists of mythology but we can deduce from Ovid's lovely tale, *Sagittus Venus* (which is the Love Goddess (Queen of Hearts) made some arrows, or darts, possibly on the forge or anvil of Vulcan, the hammer-man, her husband. Cupid, her son (the Knave of Hearts) certainly stole the darts and has mischievously been punning on them ever since. The episode of the King beating the Knave "full score" refers to Vulcan's revenge, *cum mak-*

led, after Venus's adultery with Mars (Mars here sharing with Cupid the role of knave). If we read "eat" for "dart" a simple (and typical in Late Middle English) devolving of the initial consonant - we have no difficulty in identifying the main events. The knave's subsequent repentance is probably a Christian addendum.

Eve Ryan

Tom Tom the Piper's Son. The origins of the orally traditional *Tom Tom the Piper's Son* are in Bengal, from one of whose dialects it is a free translation, used by native ayahs to frighten their tiny imperialist charges. Tom is a primogenitor descendant of the British soldier most feared by Indian mutineers in the 1857 Sepoy rebellion - the Killed Soot (fat piper). The soldier has used pork-fat piper ("stole the pig") to grease his cartridges, and is represented in quick and subsequent retreat. Bengali tradition caricatures "Tom" as capable of disgusting atrocities ("the pig was eat" - note the inaccurate rhyme here, he-taken of the fact of transliteration); as militarily incompetent ("was beat"); and as characteristically pusillanimous ("went howling" &c.). The parable inverts the actual historical events to induce subconscious unease in the offspring of the ruling British.

Bill Greenwell

The stanza first appears in *MacCobler's We Baim's Booke* as "Thomas Thom". "Piper" in the Scottish context clearly means "plumber". Dr Johnson often complains to Boswell of "no piper to disgorge the privy".

But would a plumber avail himself of a porcine beast for his labour? We suggest that the pig is a hot mould of purified iron (pig iron), for which a poor plumber would be grateful. The significance of "eat" and "beat" becomes apparent since *Argot for Sastre-nachs* (Isle of Muck Press), defines "eat" as "hot" and "beat" as "burnt".

We suggest, then, that the rhyme derives from Thomas Thom, a Scottish plumber's son, stealing a hot iron mould to help his poor father and burning himself severely. The likelihood that Thom went roaring down the street is confirmed by Black's Medical Dictionary.

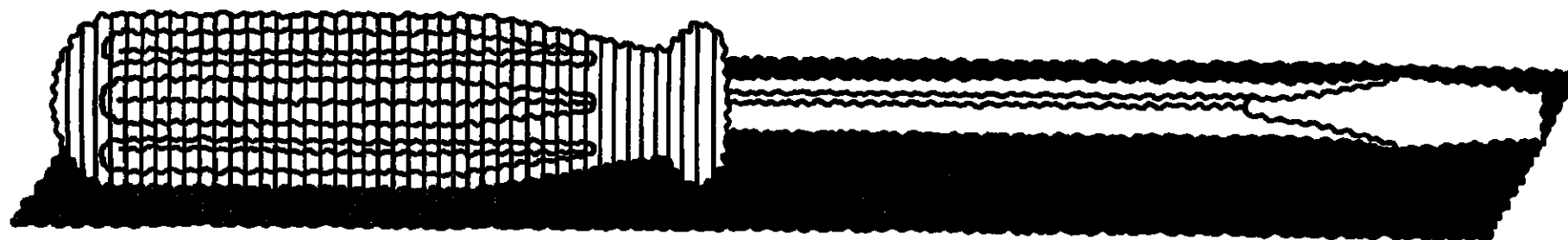
David Toley

Competition No 54. Set by Charybdis. A recent correspondent to the TLS announced sonorously that "it is perhaps worth stating authoritatively once and for all that J M Barrie and Robert Louis Stevenson never met". To compensate for this devastating intelligence, would you please provide no more than 150 words of dialogue between two dead writers who certainly cannot, chronologically, ever have met; and who might be supposed to be temperamentally antagonistic to one another. Closing date: August 22.

Next week

Clancy Sigal reviews Nancy Cunard's *Negro*; Edinburgh Festival preview

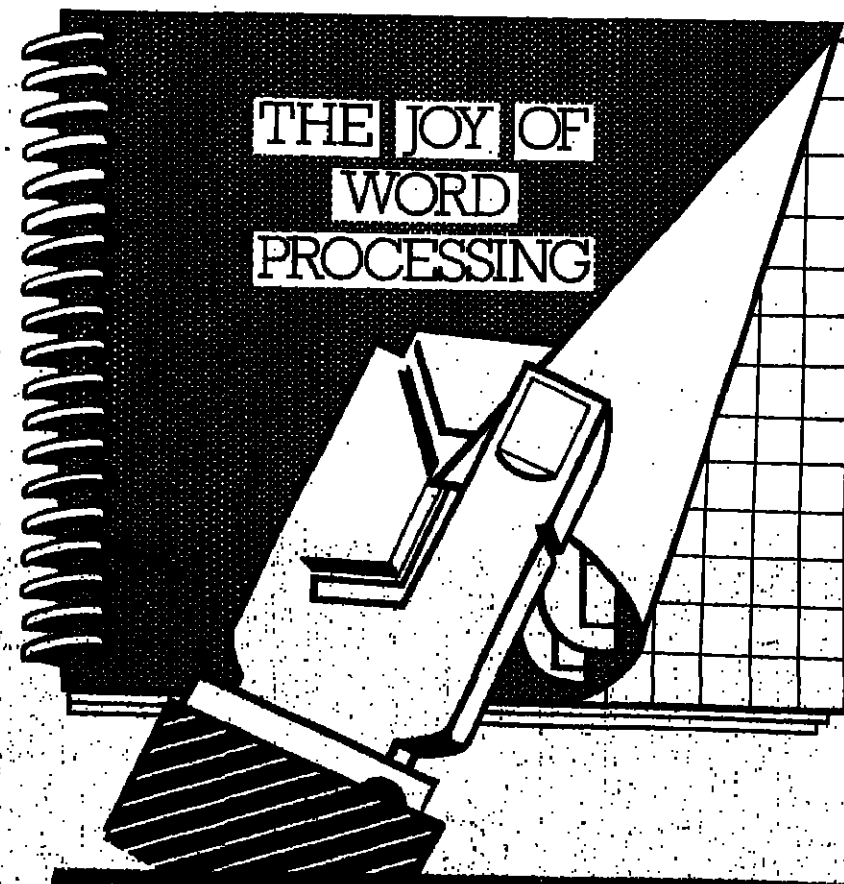
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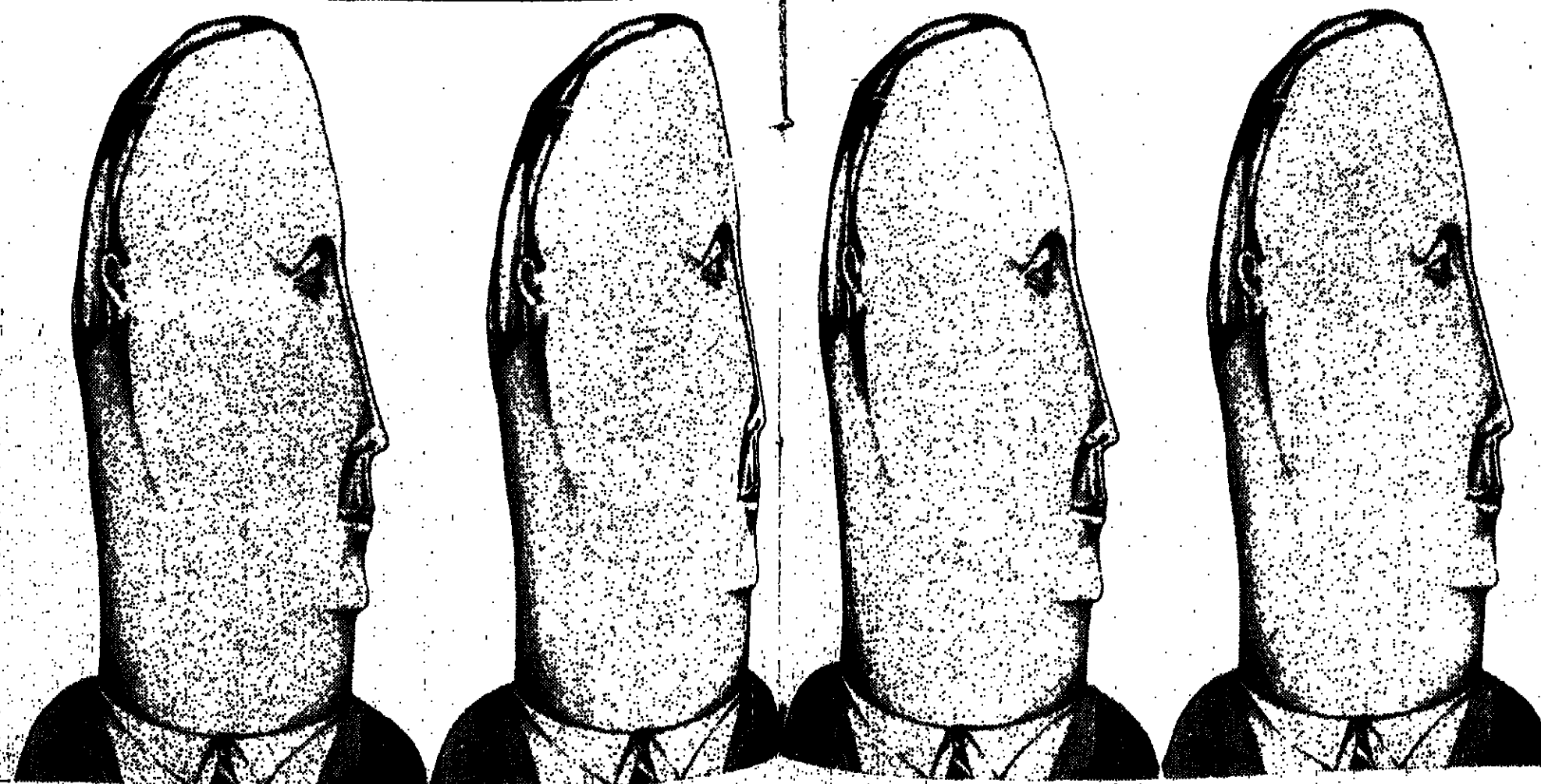


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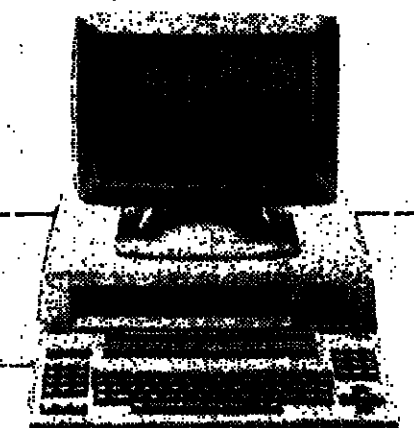
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BOOKS

Prescriptions for change

Reforming Schools in the 1980s: A Critical Review of National Reports. By A. Harry Passow. ERIC Clearing House on Urban Education, Box 40, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. \$10.00.

The Commission on Educational Excellence, which reported to President Reagan's administration in 1983, captured well that mood of belligerent, nationalistic homophobia which has in recent years characterized much educational comment on both sides of the Atlantic. In the United States problems, like everything else, are bigger. "If an unfriendly power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war..." We have, in effect, been committing an act of unilateral educational disarmament. Not surprising, then, that the title of the report should be *A Nation at Risk*.

There is an agreeable irony in the fact that this report, and the scores of documents which have gobbled up so much paper in the last two years, should have been marshalled and analysed by Professor Harry Passow, of Teachers College Columbia. For it was the same Professor Passow who observed in the 1970s that never before had there been such a plethora of commission and panel reports. The record has since been broken.

There are dangers in this latest burst of anxiety. It would be easy, too easy, to say (although it is almost true) that we have heard it all before. The roll call is a long one: Barzun, Bostor, Silberman, Conant, Kikover, Coleman. "The schools are not what they were, but then they never were."

There is the danger, too, when so much appears all at once in treating the reports and books as though they were goods trains in a marshalling yard, of which the various trucks (proposals, indictments, comments, panaceas, prejudices, evidence) can be promiscuously assembled in any sequence. Who, apart from the distant specialist, has a clear idea of where the Commission stops, and Boyer begins, or how Goodlad differs fromSizer, or both from Adler. This is a pity because some of the comment, and especially the underlying values, really do change from one book to another. Then there is a third danger that the demonology of the monolithic American High School will capture the imagination as though all schools were the same, or California was like Arkansas.

The authors differ, schools differ, we have all heard much of this before—and yet, this time round, there are

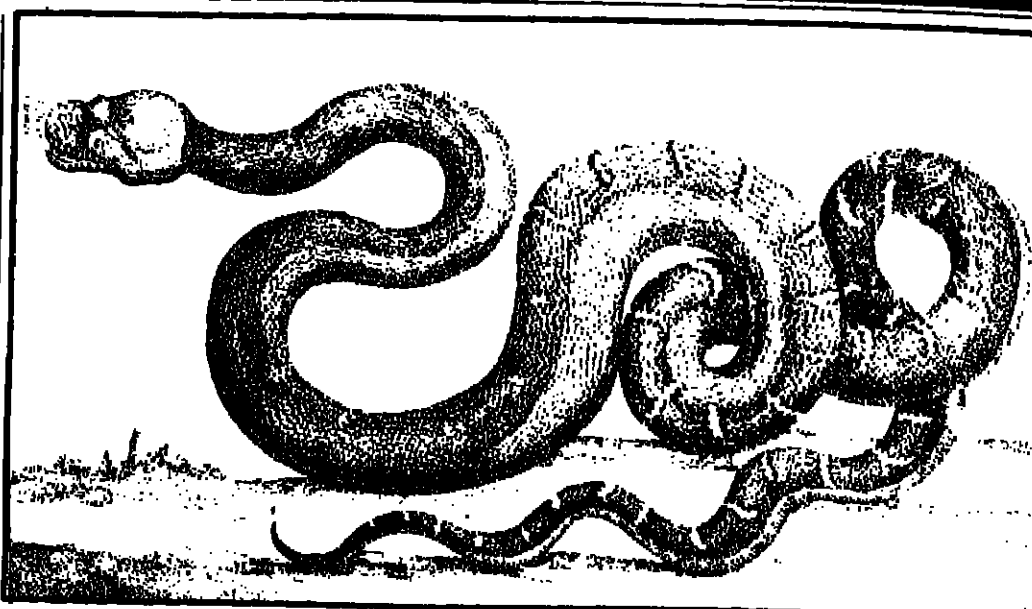
some general themes lying behind all the noise. What is arresting about them is not so much their novelty, as their disturbing simplicity and plausible coherence. What is the American nation being told? That schools have attempted too much in the past, and should concentrate on their proper task—although the Passow witnesses scatter almost like confetti such words as society, civics, ethics, community, democracy. Concentration means a common curriculum (which, in the event, often means little more than a common set of subject labels, with little thought about content or process). Diversity is bad—because "soft", inefficient, and divisive—and tracking cannot be justified in a system which is as serious (and it is) about equity as about excellence. Vocational education is out of favour; it cannot work in a rapidly changing society and offends doctrines of the common curriculum. Testing must be refined, and teachers made accountable for their competence.

Teacher training is a mess, marked by a neglect of knowledge of subject matter and time wasted on frills. Only poor students choose to become high school teachers, who are ill-rewarded and generally undervalued. Salary scales should be restructured to encourage good teaching. Discipline, like everything else, should be tightened up, and the school day and year must be lengthened.

American critics, who know best, have objected that all this is more like an indictment than a prescription for change. To a foreign observer the exclusive concentration on the high school is a little strange. Higher education—where many are fed up with the rotten preparation of future undergraduates—will apparently do its bit by raising standards of enrolment and requirements for admission to teacher training. The responsibilities and opportunities in the education of younger children are mentioned hardly at all.

But if the high schools are to change, who has the power to do the work? The major shifts of emphasis in the 1960s were achieved largely by Federal initiative in alliance with the great Foundations. Before that, change came from School Districts under the exhortations of reformers and prophets. What is striking in the present phase of soul searching is that commissions and task forces are at work in each of the 50 States, where legislatures and governors race against time to find one another to show that they can fix things. Words may not change schools much, but a shifting balance of power may.

Harry Judge



Emerald tree-boon—illustration from the paperback edition of *Wilfred Blunt's The Complete Naturalist, A Life of Linnaeus*, to be published by Collins on August 28 (£6.95).

Golden memories?

Tom Corfe on some exercises in social history

Across Cobble-Stones. By Derrick Rugg. Tabb House £2.60. 0 907018 19 X. Thatched Village. By James Buchan. Hodder & Stoughton £8.95. 0 340 32666 2.

The Hub of My Universe. By James Shaw Grant. James Thin £4.25. 0 9508371 0 5. *Living the Fishing*. By Paul Thompson, with Tony Walley and Trevor Lummis. Routledge & Kegan Paul £13.95. 0 7100 9519 8. £7.95. 9519 8.

Women's Work in Nineteenth-Century London: A Study of the Years 1820-50. By Sally Alexander. Journeyman £2.75. 0 904526 82 8. *Club Life and Socialism in Mid-Victorian London*. By Stan Shipley. Journeyman £2.75. 0 904526 81 X.

The Hunger Marchers in Britain 1920-1939. By Peter Kingsford. Lawrence & Wishart £12.50. 85315 555 0. *An Economic History of the British Building Industry, 1815-1979*. By C G Powell. Methuen £4.95. 0 416 32010 4. *The Workhouse System, 1834-1929*. The History of an English Social Institution. By M A Crowther. Methuen £4.95. 0 416 36090 4.

Urban Poverty in Britain, 1830-1914. By James H Treble. Methuen £4.95. 0 416 36270 2.

With golden memories of a childhood that overlapped the Second World War, *Across Cobble-Stones* might seem like one of those museum galleries that treat with disconcerting reverence the familiar kickshaws of our own younger days. Derrick Rugg's home, though, was rather special, and he lovingly recalls the sights, smells and characters peculiar to his Devon village. The excitement, ritual and festivities of the year's harvest high-spot naturally figure large, but the social history here is generally overshadowed by simple tales of an unexceptional career in the village school.

Golden memories from two rather older and more sophisticated writers prove more revealing. James Buchan's *Thatched Village* was in Leicestershire (or Rutland?) in the 1920s. For James Shaw Grant, *The Hub of My Universe* lay in the Outer Hebrides. One writes and produces for television, while the other was hereditary correspondent for the Highland News; so each vision of the past is enhanced by artifice and artistry. We are given a vivid portrait of rural England, going through a revolution as cars, buses and wireless drag it from primeval isolation, and a sharply detailed introduction to a remote world of kippers, crofters and kiks.

The Thatched Village teams with robust characters conversing in colourful dialect. It is rich in good stories, and it is great fun; but perhaps it is not sound history. James Buchan coyly disguises his village and its surroundings how much else he has doctored? Caricatures of arrogant aristocrats and dourly honest Strons and a half-emancipated Scottish schoolteacher

mother shows them the errors of their ways? Vigorous and vivid dialogue? Guerilla warfare of gamekeepers and village boys? This is a lively portrait of a changing community, but it is an outsider's reconstruction of the world he left long ago, painted in colours too bright to be entirely convincing.

James Grant's portrait is equally detailed and fascinating. His local paper journalists and his opinions sometimes intrude; we know he regrets the affluent comforts and blunted taste of a later generation, as well as the "neglect, stupidity and misplaced paternalism" of government. But we have valuable social detail of a distinctive culture observed with a sharply loving eye: homes, schools, churches, ships and communities figure larger than personalities. This was in one sense a narrow world of fisher folk, farmers and quaint old ways, of Gaelic speech, prohibition arguments and whisky galore. Yet Lewis had unexpected links with a wider world. The Leverhulme soap empire briefly embraced it, and long before that Lewismen (through Jardine, Matheson) took a prominent part in the opium trade. Others went to Newfoundland and Hudson's Bay, and lined up on either side in Riel's Rebellion; indeed, there seems to be a sprinkling of Canadian Indian blood among today's crofters. Presumably costs keep Mr Grant from including photographs to guide our imagination, but he might have given us a sketch-map in which to set his island reminiscences.

Where a golden haze lies over these memories, *History Workshop* sets out to shed cold, clear, searching light. This is conscientious history from below, determined to detect and dissect the miseries of history's inarticulate underdogs. But *Living the Fishing*, drawing on invaluable oral evidence, is all the better for a strong whiff of nostalgia, and even strikes an unexpected lyrical note. Earnest discussion is admirably balanced by glimpses of real life, making an attractive account of a once vigorous industry, and the varied communities of sea-wandering men and migrating women it sustained. The three authors have just the right mixture of personal involvement and scholarly detachment. Paul Thompson, in a chapter sub-titled "the chilliam of despair" coolly explains the same community that James Grant so warmly describes; these are recognizably the same folk, seen with less intimate affection but with clarity and charity. The drink problem, the land raiding of the 1920s, the activities and attitudes of the kirk, all slot neatly into perspective; as the book remarks elsewhere, "the many communities it describes, 'the relationships between family, moral order and economy are in short mutual and inseparable'."

Two useful offshoots from the same root, now reissued by the London History Workshop Centre, are narrower in purpose. Sally Alexander's examination of *Women's Work* complains, with some justice, that both historians and their sources are guilty of anti-feminist bias and middle-class morality. Pathetic tales from the invaluable Mayhew enliven an otherwise sober study, which touches briefly on well-bred milliners' assistants but concentrates on the vast reservoir of cheap labour exploited by capitalist sweatshops. *Club Life and Socialism* deals with a small minority of high-minded workmen in a crowded corner of London; but what might have been an obscure byway of local history turns out to reveal a significant link in the history of left-wing politics. Resurrecting the lives and opinions of some obscure working-class agitators, Stan Shipley finds the missing link between O'Brien's Chartism and Hyndman's SDP.

There is a sunset glow, a reddish one in this case, about Peter Kingsford's story of *The Hunger Marches*. The National Unemployed Workers Movement spent 15 years trying to resurrect the revolutionary spirit that briefly swept through the British working class in 1919-20; but there was to be no red dawn. Through the past century the industrial fringed lands had sweated to make Britain wealthy, and when it seemed that inept London governments had thrown away that lead and allowed their industrial achievement to collapse, they came trudging up to town to remind the complacent home counties of their debt. It was a futile masochism, for Communist leadership damned these provincial eruptions in the eyes of right-minded politicians and union bosses. Still, the marchers dramatized graphically the plight of the provinces and the human effects of economic change. Peter Kingsford's account puts firmly into perspective the celebrated Jarrow Crusade, in one sense a rival project.

Three University Library reprints illuminate some of the economic and social background to these memoirs and studies. C G Powell's neatly systematic and straightforward *Economic History of the British Building Industry* (first published 1980) sheds an light from an unusual angle on an age of expansion and change. M A Crowther's (1981) presents a great deal of sober truth on a subject too often obscured by myths from all directions. James Treble has the gloomiest task; concerned only with material well-being, or lack of it, he plunges into the broad and ill-defined world of *Urban Poverty* (1979). Setting himself clear questions on its causes and practical meaning, he emerges with useful if unsurprising answers. No golden haze over these three solid and sensible surveys; instead, each treats with admirable thoroughness the floods of research covering its own small corner of the past century and a half, and each presents its results with commendable clarity.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

We Are Mesquaque We Are One. By Hadley Irwin. Sheba Feminist Publishers £2.75.

This book, clearly the end product of devoted and sympathetic research, is the story of an American-Indian girl in the mid nineteenth century, told in the first person and with considerable skill and ability to get inside the mind of someone completely other. It is also the story of the terrible American guilt, perhaps less strong than the Australian guilt, but still the guilt of the murderer. What is it about the dead ones—ultimately—of some middle eastern tribe which started pushing out so many millennia ago, that makes them so efficient at destroying other cultures? They destroyed or engulfed the culture of the Lascaux cave painters and went on to do the same to many another.

Hadley Irwin tells about such a destruction and the struggle to survive by those who were not shot or infected

with smallpox or simply driven out of their homes into reservations on soil so poor that the white American colonists did not want it. It looks as if this branch of the Red and Yellow Earth people, the Mesquaque, were particularly united, with a sense of pride and history that carried them through their terrible ordeals at the hands of the Whites. A few of them, but enough to build up a new community, managed to struggle back to their old home, on the banks of the Iowa river, their security being that they had paid the American government for it—overcharged of course. I wonder if Anson Cook, the Quaker who helped them, is a historical figure. I hope so!

The Sheba Feminist Press is to be congratulated on a beautifully produced and inexpensive book which ought to be in many secondary school libraries. Hidden Doe, the heroine, is brought up by her mother and grandmother with a clear path of conduct and of necessary skills. It shows how a woman can grow up in the kind of culture which one thinks of as male-dominated, but in which wisdom, capability and a sense of honour is as much valued by the whole community in woman as in man. Perhaps a lesson for us all.

Naomi Mitchison



Monkey and the White Bone Demon, based on a sixteenth century Chinese novel (Viking Kestrel £4.95) is a strikingly illustrated picture book in which Monkey, its fearless hero, continually rescues his master and travelling companions on their way to the Western Heaven. A master of disguise he has here, finally, reduced his enemy the Demon to a pile of whitened bones.

PAPERBACKS

The Battle of Hamburg by Martin Middlebrook (Penguin £4.95) investigates the carpet of death rolled over the German city where most of the 40,000 civilians, who died on a single night, were tried. Unsparing, balanced.

The Causes of War by Michael Howard (Counterpoint £3.95). Here is a voice of historical reason disturbing those with visceral convictions. From peace campaigner to professional soldier, via this present book will encourage us to grow up historically.

The Germans by Gordon Craig (Peltan £2.95) is a relaxing read from a popular American historian with an academic reputation. It also successfully balances the contesting pulls of change and continuity of modern Germans with their recent past.

A History of Poland by Oscar Halecki (Routledge & Kegan Paul £6.95) is a revised edition of what has become a standard text and includes three chapters by A Polonsky to bring the reader to the present. However, the original emphasis on earlier Polish epochs remains.

Hitler: The Führer and the People by J Stein (Flamingo £2.50) attempts to understand the marriage between a private vision and public imagination. Using the tools of the social sciences, this appalling match becomes a believable reality and all the more unsettling.

Mark Featherstone-Witty

Otter watch

The Track of the Wild Otter. By Hugh Miles. Elm Tree Books £12.50. 0 241 11061 0.

This report on research into the habits of one of Britain's most elusive of wild creatures is first class. There must be many naturalists who have never seen a wild otter and fewer, possibly only the author and some of his associates, who have seen them in such inhospitable surroundings as Shetland. One thing emerges clearly: the almost infinite patience required when observing wild animals in their natural habitats.

The text captures the experience of the author as he steps, laden with photographic kit, carefully over weed-covered rocks or silently along a cliff path, frequently in weather which would dampen the enthusiasm of any but the most dedicated.

The text is also considerably enhanced by splendid photographs and John Busby's drawings and paintings. R C Vernon

The National Book League's summer exhibition, *Reading for Enjoyment*, will be on show at Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 (01 870 5035) between August 6 and 11, 10am to 6pm. Three hundred current children's books from the *Reading for Enjoyment* booklists, 0-1, 7-1, 12+ (Baker Books 95p each) will be featured. The three exhibitions will thereafter be available for hire at £21.00 each (VAT incl).

members £17.00 each

BOOKS

Perfect secretary

Elementary Office Practice. By Margaret Reimle Heinemann £2.95

Much of this sixth edition has been rewritten to include topics such as word processing and microfilming, and the order of the contents has been rearranged to emphasize those functions which are common to all types of business organizations, ie reception, mail room, office machinery, telecommunications, etc. At the end of each chapter there is a selection of questions, including those from relevant examination papers, some of which could be adapted for use in assignments or "in tray" exercises. The book has ample illustrations which help to reinforce the factual information given as well as adding interest for the reader.

Office Procedures. By John Harrison Pitman £3.25

This is an introductory study of office practice with topics specially selected for the new entrant to the office. Essential points of theory are covered along with new technological developments and their impact on office procedures. There are ample illustrations throughout the book and, in fact, some would make excellent practice material for typewriting display. There is a progress check at the end of each unit in the form of a list of multiple-choice questions. The companion volume, *Practical Office Procedures*, contains practical and realistic activities which correspond with units in this text. The two books are intended for students preparing for the first level Office Practice examinations of the RSA, PET, CSE and BEC General.

Practical Office Procedures. By John Harrison Pitman £2.95

This is the companion book to *Office Procedures* and provides the case studies for the assignments, and specimen blank documents which can be copied for use in the assignments. Most of the activities relate to three office workers, their places of employment and their leisure time activities, so that students can become involved in realistic situations and know how to deal with them successfully. While the two books can be used separately there is much more to be gained by having both.

Talking Shop: A Verbal Assistant's Assignments. By Vera Eatson Pitman £3.95

The assignments in this book are arranged around departments of a fictional company, and students are assigned to each department for varying periods of time. It provides good practice in typing from realistic documents, and the likely duties of a secretary in this type of company, and is excellent preparation for BEC National (secretarial skills and type-writing modules), LCCI Secretarial Studies and Private Secretary's Certificate, and RSA Typewriting ex-

amination. There is also a companion volume, *Talking Shop: Teaching Notes* (£3.50), which explains the arrangement of assignments in the students' book, and outlines a suggested scheme of work. The material for dictation, and guidelines for assessing assignments is provided, as well as keys to selected assignments.

Introducing Office Skills. By C J Swan Longman £3.75

This is a first introduction to office skills, particularly for those taking CSE examinations. It covers a wide range of topics, eg finding employment; various office tasks including filing; reception; switchboard operation; typing; duplicating and repro-

graphic work; arranging meetings; use of reference books; bank services and wages. The vocabulary is simple, sentences are short, chapters are broken up into short, manageable sections. There are numerous exercises throughout the book to test progress and provide realistic tasks, and an abundance of interesting and helpful illustrations. There is a Teacher's Guide (£3.95) to accompany this book and facilitate the preparation of lessons and marking of pupils' work. The materials needed to complete the classwork and exercises are listed at the beginning of each chapter, together with suggestions for audio-visual aids. Addresses of the companies named are given at the end of the book. Answers are included, in some cases more information is given than appears in the pupils' book. Where forms are needed, a typing guide is provided showing line spacing, margins and tabulator stops—another time-saver for teachers who do not have suitable blank forms or photocopying facilities.

Clerical Skills in Practice. By Margaret Leaf McGraw-Hill £3.95

This book is suitable for students on training schemes and those preparing for CSE and RSA Stage 1 examinations. It concentrates on the clerical skills aspect of office practice and procedures courses, and provides a programme of realistic simulations, as vocational, designed to prepare the student for office life, and develop clerical, life and social skills simultaneously. The exercises are well organized; there is a list of questions after each section as a progress check; many useful illustrations, including a photocopied (with key) at the back of the book; and there is a *Teacher's Manual* available (£10.95) which contains detailed notes for course guidance, and copyright is partially waived so that task forms, progress checks, and work experience documents may be photocopied for class use, which all makes for some welcome flexibility for teachers.

The Electronic Office. By Malcolm Peltu BBC £2.95

This is the sixth and revised edition of a book which can be used by beginners or more advanced students. It is so arranged that parts or all of the book can be used according to the time available to the student and teacher. The contents are divided into seven parts, each part clearly defined, plus suggestions to the teacher on the appropriate exercises for each level of attainment, and a helpful index. There is a wealth of practice material from the early keyboard exercises and drills through to elementary, intermediate and some higher examinations; and some excellent long speed and accuracy tests, plus a small amount of typing from a foreign language. As an "international" typewriting book it is a pity there is not more on this particular section since there is a dearth of material in foreign languages for typists to gain experience before either taking an examination or a post abroad, or one which entails typing in a foreign language—authors and publishers, please note.

Margaret J Harrison

For the new academic year — Sim and Scott: 'A' Level English Law

Sixth edition, 1984

By R B Sim, LL.B., C.S.E., F.R.S.A., Barrister, formerly a Chief Examiner to the Associated Examining Board and Peter J. Pease, LL.B., LL.M., Barrister, Principal Lecturer in Law, Manchester Polytechnic

Sim and Scott has long been familiar to students of 'A' level law, for whom it has proved a popular, reliable and authoritative text. This new and substantially revised edition has been radically reconstructed to meet the particular requirements of the Joint Matriculation Board syllabus, though its clarity and the broad extent of its coverage make it suitable for all 'A' level candidates as well as for those requiring an introduction to law for a wide range of professional and vocational courses. Much new theoretical material, designed to set the substance of the law in its social context has been added. New cases covered in this edition include *Photo Production Ltd v Securicor Transport Ltd* and *B P Exploration (Libya) Ltd v Hunt (No 2)*.

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G N Minshull

Intended for O level and CSE courses, this book provides a systematic geography of Western Europe, including the EEC countries, Scandinavia, the Alpine regions and the Iberian Peninsula. Photographs, maps and diagrams, many of them in two colours, are liberally used, both to emphasise ideas and to help stimulate pupils' interest.

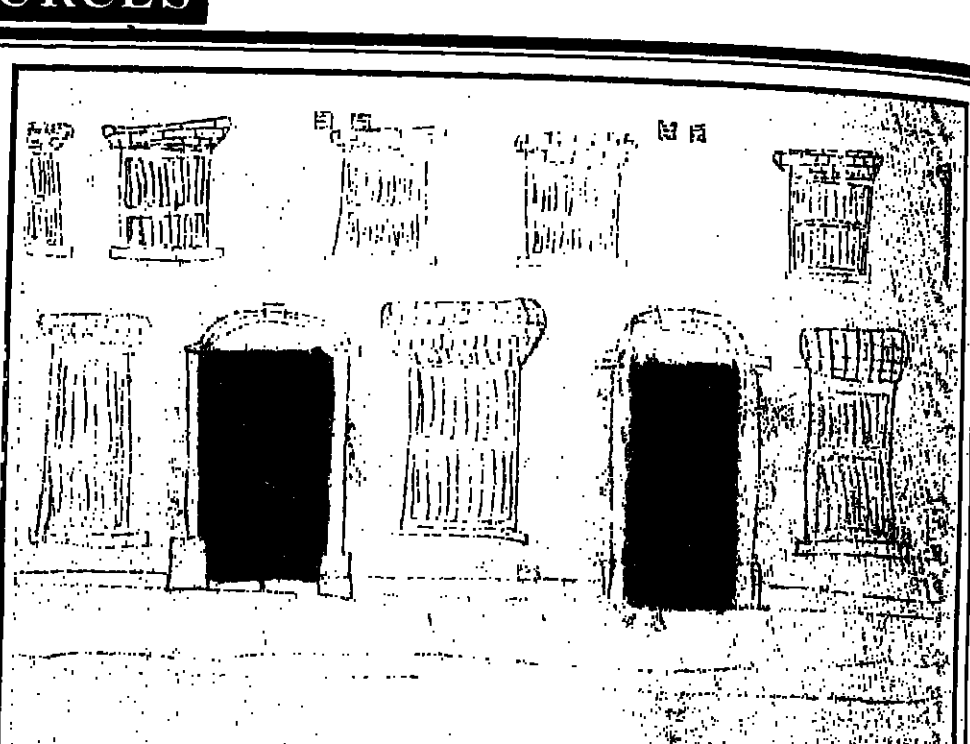
Chapters are included on agricultural and industrial case studies, looking in particular at multinational companies and government control and involvement in industry. Topics of interest such as North Sea oil, the Common Agricultural Policy and city planning are also highlighted.

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Familiar landscapes

Bill Hicks on 'The Traveller's Dream', part of Whitechapel Art Gallery's Artists in East End Schools scheme

A child wakes up in a room he doesn't recognize. He realizes he has lost his memory. Attempting to regain it, he sets out on a journey which takes him through a strangely familiar landscape of towering, fortress-like buildings, dark, scary subways and car scrapheaps.

This is the premise of *The Traveller's Dream*, a 20-minute slide-tape programme made by a group of about 30 10-year-olds from the Ben Jonson Primary School, Stepney. The programme is one result - the most tangible of a 12-week, two-days-a-week residency of the young Leicestershire artist and film-maker Keith Frake. This was organized by the Whitechapel Art Gallery, with help from ILEA and an Urban Aid grant, as part of its 'Artists in East End Schools' scheme, and as such was featured in a recent exhibition at London's AIR Gallery called 'Art Within Reach'.

The programme, which captivated a relatively sophisticated audience at the gallery, is a tightly-edited sequence of black-and-white photographs, held together by a multi-voiced, narrative skilfully mixed with location sound. It is an object lesson in the use of slide-tape as

a medium for creative work in schools. The memory-loss idea proved to be an effective device, stimulating the children to observe their surroundings in new ways. It caught their imaginations to the extent that the material they produced would have filled a two-hour, rather than a 20-minute show.

Keith Frake's approach to his residency was at variance with the typical artist-in-residence practice as established in its relatively brief history. Instead of aiming to develop his own work in a school environment, in the hope that exposure to the creative process might trigger off something similar in the children, he decided from the outset to help children produce their creative work. His function

would be to put his skills and judgment at their disposal. He chose slide-tape, rather than say making a film, not so much for reasons of economy, but because of its extreme flexibility, the almost limitless opportunities for division of labour it offers, with a definite final product in sight. It also leaves individual imaginations free to roam within the constraints of the theme. And at the crucial selection stages, when all the photos and drawings and poems and descriptive pieces are sifted through and tried in various sequences, it is even amenable to a form of classroom democracy.

Hardware was kept as simple as possible. All photographs were taken on automatic exposure Olympus Trip cameras, with the focus fixed on

infinity for uniformly sharp pictures of buildings and landscapes. Sound recordings were largely made on Keith Frake's own good-quality tape machines. He also provided a twin-projector dissolve system, the vital ingredient which transforms a one-by-one slide show into something akin to the movies, only with sharper images. He found the children rapidly came to appreciate and exploit the idea of fading one picture into the next, of pacing and sequencing images in relation to a soundtrack.

Keith Frake was very eager not to be seen as just another teacher. He admits he was not too worried that, for some of the group, the project was merely an opportunity to get out of school for a few hours. Nevertheless,

the results prove that he was a highly effective tutor in drawing, photography, sound recording and creative writing for those children who were willing. He even spoke of "co-ercing" better and better work out of the pupils he knew to be capable, and of the "sweat" involved in achieving a truly professional final product.

The only point at which Keith Frake intervened directly to exercise his own decisional skills, was at the admittedly crucial stage of sound editing and "pulsing". So he took the final decisions about the rhythm of the programme, but only after much discussion with its creators and only with their approval.

The project speaks volumes for the catalytic value of having an artist in the school, even on a part-time basis. Perhaps the main problem for schools after such an artist leaves is how to maintain and build on the enthusiasms and skills generated.

Information on artists in schools is available from the Whitechapel Art Gallery, and from the Public Art Development Trust, 618 Kensington Avenue, London EC1R 4TD.

notes

SCIENCE KITS

Kits of materials for primary science are being made available by the Society of Chemical Industry. Each kit contains about 30 samples of five or six materials with which young children can carry out simple experiments.

Pupils' notes suggest what these experiments might be: for example, put your material near a magnet; leave it in water; how can you make it rough? make it smooth?

Materials in the pack include different kinds of plastics, metals, wool and fibres. The scheme follows a pilot project begun in 1982 with Hampshire Education Authority. Similar packs were tried out in several Hampshire schools. Feedback from them indicated the importance of teachers' and pupils' notes and the need to provide a sample of each material for every child in the class. David Evans, Hampshire's Science Adviser for Schools, also suggested that in-service meetings to introduce the packs and discuss their use were advisable.

Packs cost £5 for postage and packing only - the contents are donated by the manufacturers. Further information from the Society of Chemical Industry, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1 8PS.



On the buses

Jan Cumming attends the launch of a new vehicle for introducing modern technology to girls

It is government policy to equip eventually every school in the country with a computer. It is the aim of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Engineering Council - through the WISE (Women Into Science and Engineering) campaign - to see that girls are given easy access and greater opportunity to use these computers. In order to accelerate the education of girls in this and related fields, Mrs Thatcher last week launched a double-decker bus, converted into a mobile teaching and exhibition unit, which will tour schools across the country. Students who have not yet had the chance, will receive first-hand experience of modern technology.

The bus was converted by British

School Technology and provides four areas for practical work with mechanisms, electronics, pneumatics and microprocessors, plus an information section with room for 16 to watch a video on women working in industry. The conversion cost was £58,000. Funding came from the Manpower Services Commission, Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Education and Science. Many sections of industry are aware of the need to stimulate interest among the potential workforce and donated all the equipment, which includes a BBC Acorn Microprocessor and a videorecorder from Thorn-EMI.

An important part of the project is keeping in touch with new technologi-

cal developments. Ron Denney, a project director of BST, believes in using the resources of today: "A twentieth-century curriculum needs a twentieth-century structure to make it work." Introducing up-to-date technology to students at an early age (the project covers an age range of 8 to 18), means they approach it with enthusiasm and learn new skills which will open up further opportunities. Girls are beginning to consider science seriously as a career option. Helen Basham, 18, a student at Queensbury Upper School, Bedfordshire, has benefited from the encouragement she has received at her school to use computers. She has been awarded a scholarship by Hunting

Engineering to go to the Royal Military College of Science and Engineering at Shrivenham, and intends to become an electronics engineer.

Schools are rapidly trying to provide more technology courses and British School Technology is an educational unit which is acting as a national focus for advice and consultancy. Bedfordshire already has several buses operating in its area which have proved very successful and many other counties have shown interest.

An in-service teacher training programme is planned with each local education authority nominating eight schools in their county to take part in the project. Each school is asked to release two teachers, one science and one CDT (Craft, Design, Technology), who will receive four weeks' training, ready to take classes when the bus visits their particular school.

Geoff Shillito, a project director responsible for the teaching and exhibition programme, is keen that neighbouring schools should use the bus in the evenings and that parents should also be encouraged to take advantage of its facilities. And if possible the bus will stop in local market places and be open to the general public at weekends.

It is interesting to note that of the 15 staff appointed to train the teachers in the schools, none are women. Perhaps this scheme will change that situation and encourage more girls to take up opportunities in the science, engineering, and computer industries. The bus still needs a woman driver - any offers?

MEDIA



Trak Tris Channel 4 Fridays 6.00-7.00pm.

Crackerjack was never like this. Trak Tris is Channel 4's new teenagers' game/sport show. It's a nation-

al competition in 10 parts to find the best team from schools across the country. The events have a distinctly "alternative" feel about them.

For example, in this week's adventure course we saw teams racing against the clock to fill a supermarket trolley with traffic cones and rubber tyres. The catch - all members of the team were on roller skates and the playing area was steeply sloped.

Teamwork took second place to bravery. The six team members involved in each time trial were all correctly helmeted and padded, which, against the background of the playing area (a car park), made the whole thing look like a raid on Tesco's by part of the cast of *Star Wars*. In each event, the adventure course is completely different. It will be worth watching to see what they think of next.

Trak Tris is a strange, but very enjoyable mixture of wish-fulfilment and improvisation. Each week there are two motorized events, Karting and Scrambling, neither of which is very new. Certainly in the events I saw, it wasn't that exciting either. This was particularly so of the Karting. The only

way the young drivers could increase the speed of their underpowered machines was to bounce up and down in their seats as they took corners. Despite the teams being mixed, in both motorized events in the first programme, the contestants were all boys. This wasn't the fault of the production company, I was assured. Part of the programme's aim is to allow the young teams of 11-15 to decide who's going to participate in which event.

The improvisation part comes in the form of a "future sport" slot each week in which the teams and presenters demonstrate a new game which requires minimal equipment and facilities. Watch out on future programmes for games with names like Uni-Hock, Tchouk Ball and HackySack, which can only be described as a cross between juggling, tennis and football. In the first programme we saw an excellent variant on basketball which only requires one Frisbee, some piles of sweaters and a park or beach space.

For Frisbee, we are told, please say "Sports Disc". There was another Sports Disc event in the first programme, in which contestants had to get the discs through up-ended hoops. This wasn't half as exciting as the second roller skating event, in which the Tesco raiders had to skate through a demanding set of obstacles. It was during this that there was the programme's first accident. We were told with admirable frankness what had happened to one of the skaters, who took a fairly nasty-looking fall.

We were also shown - admirable frankness again - contestants after each event, so we could share their

Track events

Nick Baker on a teenagers' game/sport show that combines wish-fulfilment with improvisation

triumph or defeat. In one amusing moment after a team game, the team in question's post-mortem nearly turned into a serious argument.

Two other interesting features of the 50-minute programme - the prizes the contestants win for their school or youth club are outshone by the amount they can raise for charity through sponsorship. And it's to the programme's credit that the teams know the specific projects that their money will help, because they've chosen them themselves.

is far more elaborate and usually more pretentious.

Nicely placed to crown the pre-show build-up, last Saturday's *Sebastian Coe: Born to Run* was a fine example of the latter. Trained in TV *Times* as "an in-depth look at the life of Seb Coe", it was nothing of the kind. A voice-over narrator predictably told us exactly when he was born; there were shots of his house, his parents' house, of Seb running. Seb training. Seb watching television. Seb at Stamford Bridge, and endless moments of archive film... but all I gathered about the man inside the ICJ sweatshirt was that he had failed the 11-plus and would willingly hang up his Nike-sponsored spikes and play in a jazz band if only he was good enough.

Peter Coe, Seb's father and trainer, featured largely. Seb himself, however, remained in irritating long-shot. Pretty, intelligent, articulate and as media-astute as David Gower, he should have been given more opportunity to talk to camera, if only to argue his way out of the kit-bag in which Tony Maylam's films constrained him.

Although it was twice the length of *A Full Life*, by the time the credits came up (inevitably to the strains of a tune which wasn't quite the theme from *Chariots of Fire*), I realized I knew less about the real Coe than I did about Osborne. A pity: a critic (able-bodied) but alas no runner, I think I'll still prefer him.

Hugh David

Life style

A Full Life Channel 4, Tuesdays, 5.30 - 6.00pm. Sebastian Coe: Born to Run Channel 4, Saturday July 28.

Maybe it was my sex, but the colour was full, vivid and saturated in the first of Jill Cochrane's biographical television interviews, *A Full Life*. There was John Osborne, ruddily sun-tanned, grey-bearded and wearing a blue cardigan, sitting in front of a lush, verdant Surrey.

There was a certain appropriateness about it, for, as readers of his autobiography *A Better Class of Person* will know, Osborne's world is a technicolor place. With due deference to the susceptibilities of the early-evening audience, this came across in his answers to Ms Cochrane's gently probing questions. His mother - the luckless Nellie Beatrice whom the playwright has not seen for five years

he dismissed as "a very dislikeable woman"; we critics got predictably short shrift ("People don't realize a lot of them are cripples; they've got surgical boots or skin diseases or things they've picked up from other people") and so did actors ("Most of them are rather psychotic; they're incapable of friendship or love or loyalty... and the women are used to confirming him as the crusty, short-tempered laird of Edenbridge - his home in that Kentish village was a backdrop for the chat programme discovered a human side to Osborne. I almost found myself liking him, despite all that "Damn You, England!" business. Almost.

There are two main ways of approaching television biographies. *A Full Life* is an example of what might be called the *Desire of the Island Discs* approach. The subject is allowed to talk, to ramble with only the tactful prodding of the charming Ms Cochrane keeping him more or less on the biographical straight-and-narrow. It is usually more interesting and invariably more revealing than the alternative, *Olympic approach*, which

Half-remembered song

Folklore Series 10 booklets: £1.95 each, except introduction £3.90. Breakwater Books, Newfoundland Distributed by Pandemic Ltd, 71 Russell Street, London WC1.

Folklore in North West Lincolnshire Price £2. Scunthorpe Museum, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire.

How does one study folk literature? Anonymous, evanescent, arising from the groundswell of popular emotion and disappearing back into the maw of half-remembered song, story, myth, it is not an easy plant to press in the page of a library.

Typically, the Canadian product *Folk Literature* tries in a densely-packed series of booklets to compress examples, discussion, reference and methodology into a modular format which can be easily tested and, one suspects, easily forgotten. The English offering is simply a collection of source material, intriguing or poignant, but with absolutely no guidance to teacher or student on use.

Folk Literature has clearly been aimed at specific courses for the first two years of American college. It would thus be suitable for A level. The constant statement and recapitulation of goals might wear the patience of a British teacher; but much of the material is useful; including discussion suggestions and directions on how to do your own fieldwork. The insistence on modern equivalence is fine, and releases the student from considering mere words on a page: a strange way to

There are 10 booklets in the series, covering folk tales, folk songs, traditions and monologues, the ballad, folk

speech, folk legend and folk drama. On the whole, the material chosen is English, but there are references to Newfoundland (where the series is published) and to the customs of Inuit and other Eskimo peoples, which broaden its scope.

The two booklets on folk speech make a very amusing selection of children's rhymes and modern grooves which should catch the fancy. "She was pure as the snow but she drifted", Professor John Widdowson, responsible for these sections, has spent a lifetime studying folklore and his discussion flows easily on the page. It may bring the subject alive to discover that "How do you make a hamburger for an elephant? Answer: First you take a big bun..." is not just occasion for a groan but is folklore. As a whole, however, the series is uneven and suffers from having many contributors. Its rather ponderous overview-cum-introduction could be discarded and the material alone used to better advantage.

Scunthorpe Museum's beautifully-produced pack of reproductions of old photographs, herbals, ballads, songs and posters is sandwiched between reproduced articles on customs and history, an almanac, glossary of dialect, gazetteer and listing of superstitions and proverbs. It would be a wonderful resource for an A-level project. It includes a fascinating account of a wife-sail, probably a spoof, and a rough draft for a lonely hearts ad in 1875. "Wanted: a wife, nothing else will do" has been scratched out and more tamely a plea for a clean and industrious person of middle age written in. As the proverb has it, "Honest men marry soon, wise men not at all". Well, class, is this good advice?

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Keep on running

The Ancient Olympic Games British Museum until September 2.

"Charmos, a long-distance runner, finished seventh in a field of six. A friend ran alongside him shouting: 'Keep going, Charmos!' and although fully dressed, beat him. And if he had had five friends, he would have finished twelfth". Thus wrote an early commentator on the Olympics.

The lively exhibition currently on show at the British Museum is full of such telling insights into the bygone days of sport - which don't seem as remote as all that. Bribery and scandal, professional versus amateur, national squabbles, are as old as the Games themselves (the first official Olympiad dates from 776BC).

Where the ancient Games do differ from the resurrected version is in their religious nature - the Games were the greatest of all Pan-Hellenic festivals, imposing a three-month truce on all participating countries; and in the importance given to the prowess of the individual, inspired by a god, rather than the state for which he came.

Using pottery illustrations, coinage, statues, rubbing-oil flasks and other artifacts to show the five main types of event, the exhibition is focused around a stunning model of the Sacred Precinct at Olympia. Flicking between altars and sacred images in the grove, the spectators would watch wrestling and boxing, running and equestrian events and the discus, javelin, long jump, race and wrestling of the pentathlon.

There was also an Olympic Games for girls - the Heraia - in which the



foot-race was the only event. Yet for all the stress on dedication to Zeus, it seems that training and performance were as strictly physical as today.

From Plato, who condemned the use of hot baths as effeminate, to Milo, the famous wrestler who is said to have eaten whole a four-year-old heifer after having carried it around all day, ancient literature abounds in references to the Olympics. Greeks (parentage had to be proved) came from all Libya, the Caspian Sea, the Balkans, Spain, to win the coveted olive wreath, which, with the odd bottle of olive oil, was all there was in the way of prize-money.

Perhaps it says something for the relative strengths of motivation, in human beings that the Olympics, which offered only fame and glory to the victors, lasted a thousand years where the lesser Games which proliferated and gave lavish prizes were short-lived. And what, one wonders, of our own hundred-year-old Olympic Games?

An excellent book, *The Ancient Olympic Games*, by Judith Swaddell is available from the British Museum bookshop at £3.95.

Victoria Neumark



Above: Heracles, dressed in traditional lionskin with club and bow, is received into Heaven by a winged Victory. Zeus looks on; peering his wings and thunderbolt. Heracles, a hero legendary for his strength, was said to be the founder of the Olympic Games which were dedicated to Zeus. Below: Deliaid from the Athenian Amphora c. 475-450 BC. (British Museum Collection).

briefings

radio & tv

Open University

HAVE YOU YOUR HOMEWORK DONE, MAMMY? (Saturday 08.05, BBC2) What is community education? This case study from Belfast shows the advantages for women who want more control over their own lives.

Continuing education and general interest

INDUSTRIAL GERMANY - THE RUHR (Friday Aug 3 11.00, Radio 4) David Smeaton reports on the industrial, social and educational changes in the heartland of West Germany's industry, the Ruhr Valley.

STAYING IN BUSINESS (Friday Aug 3 23.00, VHF4) Anyone can start a business - but what are the crises and pitfalls to be avoided? Peter Hobday begins by finding out 'Who needs you anyway?'

ALL IN A DAY'S WALK (Monday 12.30, ITV) A botanist, a geologist and an ornithologist go on a series of six walks in Northern Ireland, starting at the Giant's Causeway.

LET'S PARLEZ FRANÇAIS (Monday 18.40, C4) A light-hearted, new approach to language learning. Petula Clark, Cliff Richard, Angela Rippon and others take part in sketches devised by Miles Kingston of 'Franglais' fame.

Briefings will resume in September.

Television Programme Recording

Titles Available for Week Commencing Sunday 5th August 1984.

Wednesday August 8 17.30 Splash: Backstroke: fee code B 17.30 Start Here: The Liquid Show fee code D 18.30 Today's History: The Making of American Presidents Part 2 fee code D

Saturday August 11 14.00 Great Walks: Malham Cove and Gordale Scar fee code B (NB: This programme is suitable for the benefit of deaf viewers) For more information contact TV Recording Licence Dept. GUILD LEARNING Guild House Peterborough PE2 8PZ Telephone (0733) 83122

SECONDARY MODERN LANGUAGES

continued

BROMLEY

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
RAMSDEN SCHOOL
 For Boys
 Clarendon Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 4LB
 Headmaster: M. Lane.
 Tel: 01825 51071

6 FORM ENTRY

COMPREHENSIVE
 Required for September 1984. An enthusiastic and well-qualified candidate will be required to teach French to all ages and abilities in the Junior classes. The Faculty progress candidates for C.E. and A level examinations. Scale 1.

The school is housed in modern buildings on a site shared with the Ramsden School. The school has a sixth form of 240 boys and girls offers a wide range of established C.E. 'A' level courses.

Application form available from the Headmaster of the school, to whom the completed form should be returned by 10th August 1984. (08641) 135622

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

An Equal Opportunity Employer

CITY OF LEICESTER SCHOOL

Downing Drive, Leicester 11-18 Comprehensive

Roll 1093

FRENCH SCALE 1

A teacher of French is required. 'A' level experience preferred. A willing candidate would be an advantage.

Further details from the Head (SAE). Apply in full particulars (no forms) with full particulars and references (SAE). (08054) 133632

Lancashire County Council

An Equal Opportunities employer

The following are required for the dates stated and the closing date is 16th August 1984.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Forms/further details from/to the Headteacher at the school unless otherwise stated. SAE please.

LANCASTER RIPLEY ST. THOMAS C.E. SECONDARY

(Aided) Ashton Road, Lancaster (1250 on roll 11-18) 1st September 1984 or as soon as possible.

SCALE 1 - RURAL SCIENCE

Forms/further details from/to the Headteacher at the school unless otherwise stated. SAE please.

PRESTON RIBBLETON HALL HIGH, Ribblesdale Hall Drive,

Preston (922 on roll 11-10) 1st September 1984

SCALE 1 - SCIENCE

Forms/further details from/to the District Education Officer, 58/60 Guildhall St., Preston, S.A.E. Please.

Re-advertisement

LONGRIDGE ST. CECILIA'S R.C. HIGH (Aided)
 Chapel Hill, Longridge (385 on roll 11-18) 1st September 1984

SCALE 1 - BOYS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Forms/further details from/to the District Education Officer, 58/60 Guildhall St., Preston, S.A.E. Please.

OSWALD TWISTLE RHYDDINGS COUNTY HIGH

Heath Road, Oswaldtwistle (1082 on roll 11-18) September 1984-July 1985

SCALE 1 - BIOLOGY TO 'O' LEVEL STANDARD

Forms/further details from/to the District Education Officer, Ewbank House, Cannon Street, Accrington, SAE please.

SCALE 1 - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO 'O' and 'A' LEVEL

Forms/further details from/to the District Education Officer, 14 Nicholas Street, Burnley, SAE please. Returnable to Rev. Father P. Keane, St. John's Presbytery, Ivy Street, Burnley.

BACUP FEARNOS COUNTY SECONDARY

Barnes Moss, Stacksteads, Bacup (1250 on roll 11-16) 1st September 1984 or 1st January 1985

SCALE 1 - FRENCH TO CSE (Interest in Graded Tests)

Forms/further details from/to the District Education Officer, Education Offices, Town Hall, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, SAE please.

TEMPORARY POST

OSWALD TWISTLE RHYDDINGS COUNTY HIGH
 Heath Road, Oswaldtwistle (1082 on roll 11-18) September 1984-July 1985

SCALE 1 - BIOLOGY TO 'O' LEVEL STANDARD

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Barnes Moss, Stacksteads, Bacup (1250 on roll 11-16) 1st September 1984 or 1st January 1985

Forms/further details from/to the District Education Officer, Education Offices, Town Hall, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, SAE please.

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

11-18 Mixed. Voluntary. Aided. 880 roll. 150 Boarders. 140 in 6th Form. Required for September 1984 or January 1985, an Assistant Teacher of German/English. 'A' level. Scale 1 (Scale 2 suitable for qualified applicants). Letters of application, including C.V. and names and addresses of 2 referees, to Headmaster, as soon as possible. (09087) 135622

RICHMOND UPON THAMES

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

WHITTON SCHOOL
 Ferry Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 6JW

(11-16 mixed comprehensive)

FRENCH/GERMAN (Scale 1 Allowance)

Required for September 1984. A well qualified graduate in French and German, to teach across the ability range in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years and eventually to 4th and 5th year examination pupils. The ability to assist with the teaching of the school holiday dates. (09085) 135622

Application forms and particulars of the school available from the Headmaster, Twickenham, TW2 6JW (s.a.e. please), to whom the completed form should be returned by 10th August 1984. (09085) 135622

WALTHAM FOREST

CORPUS CHRISTI R.C. HIGH SCHOOL
 Head: Mr. P. White
 Headmaster, Twickenham, TW2 6JW (s.a.e. please), to whom the completed form should be returned by 10th August 1984. (09085) 135622

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Music

Scale 1 Posts

BRENT

LONDON BOROUGH OF

ST. GEORGE'S HIGH

(Mixed) School, Kenton, London W5 3NS

Required for September 1984. A well qualified teacher of Music, to teach across the ability range in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years and eventually to 4th and 5th year examination pupils. The ability to assist with the teaching of the school holiday dates. (09085) 135622

HUMBERSIDE

GRIMSBY DIVISION

(11-16 Mixed)

Required for September 1984. A well qualified teacher of Music, to teach across the ability range in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years and eventually to 4th and 5th year examination pupils. The ability to assist with the teaching of the school holiday dates. (09085) 135622

TEMPORARY (ONE YEAR)

Required for September 1984. A well qualified teacher of Music, to teach across the ability range in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years and eventually to 4th and 5th year examination pupils. The ability to assist with the teaching of the school holiday dates. (09085) 135622

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Required for September 1984. A well qualified teacher of Music, to teach across the ability range in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years and eventually to 4th and 5th year examination pupils. The ability to assist with the teaching of the school holiday dates. (09085) 135622

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WALTHAM FOREST

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

continued

Religious Education

Other Assistants

GRIMSBY

ST. JAMES' SCHOOL
Grimsby
The Choir School of Great
Grimsby Parish Church
and
An Associated School of
the Woodward Corporation

Required for September
1984 R.E. Specialist to
teach to C.C.E. 'O' and
'A' level. Ability to offer
subsidiary subject im-
portant. Sympathy with
aim of a Christian School
essential.

Send application with
C.V. and stamped address
and envelope to the Head-
master, St. James' School,
Grimsby, South Humberside
DN34 4BY. (07109) 184424

Science

Other Assistants

DEVON

**BRANDSEAN SENIOR &
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**
Exeter

Day and Weekly Boarding
School for Boys
50 BOARDS - 110 DAY

CHEMISTRY TEACHER

Enthusiastic, experi-
enced Chemistry teacher
required. O and A levels
and University Entrance
standard. Ability to teach
Computer Science or Phy-
sics an advantage. Broad
range of first class
academic results. Non-re-
sidential post.

Burnham Scale. Asses-
ment with removal and
accommodation available.

The School has a fine
Chapel Choir, under the
direction of the Head-
master. The school is
well equipped with a
regular service. Special
consideration will be given
to experienced choir-men.

There is also a
flourishing C.C.F. Naval
Detachment.

Principal: Games,
Mechanics and Sum-
mer Term - Cricket and Ath-
letics.

Applicants who share
any of the above interests
are particularly welcome.

The school places em-
phasis on gentlemanly be-
haviour, self-discipline and
service.

Applications should be
directed to: The Headmas-
ter, Brandsean School,
Richmond Lodge, Exeter
EX1 2QR. (09242) 184824

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Physics

KENT

**Duke of York's Royal
Military School, Dover
Independent Boarding School**
470 BOYS 11-18 (Re-Advertisement)

As a result of a developing curriculum within the Science
Department an additional member of staff is required from
January or September 1985 to teach Physics up to at least 'O'
Level standard and also to play an active part in the
development of Technology and/or Micro Electronics courses.
The post is seen as an ideal opportunity for a recently qualified
Physics Teacher who will have a relevant specialisation to
establish himself/herself in these important areas.

Ability to coach at least one of the major sports would be
desirable. Candidates must be prepared to commit themselves
fully to Boarding School life. Both single and married accom-
modation is available at a fair rent.

Salary - Burnham Scale 1 plus a pensionable Boarding
School Allowance. Application form from the Headmaster
(Tel 0304 230323 Ext 25), Duke of York's Royal Military School,
Dover, Kent, CT16 5EQ. The Civil Service is an Equal
Opportunities Employer. AW1846.

MIDDLESEX

DENMEAD SCHOOL
Denmead, Middlesex TW18
3LW (APS 200 boys)
Required for September
or earlier by arrangement.
Teacher with top Rugby and
Cricket. Particularly suitable
for young teachers. Good
post with positive prospects.
Applications from Headmaster
(07483) 185624

SURREY

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**
Cobham, Surrey
SCIENCE TEACHER
(GRADUATE)

Required immediately
for High School students
aged 14-18 years.
Please write with full
details to the Headmaster,
American Community
Schools, Haywood, Cobham,
Surrey KT11 1LH. (08853)
(08853) 184824

WEST SUSSEX

STONING COLLEGE
Required for September 1984.
Young and Enthusiastic
School Teacher to teach Com-
bined Science and Mathemat-
ics to 150 boys aged 11-18.
An ability to teach an
advantage although not
essential. Single person
accommodation is available.
from applicants. Please
send application with C.V.
and references to the Head-
master, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

Other than by Subject
Classification

Other Assistants

LONDON SW17

For September 1984. A full
time independent school
requires full time
teacher for general subjects.
One post for infants and one
for 5-8 years.
Applications with curricu-
lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W15

For September 1984. A full
time independent school
requires full time
teacher for general subjects.
One post for infants and one
for 5-8 years.
Applications with curricu-
lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W6

ST. PAUL'S GIRLS' SCHOOL
For September 1984. A full
time independent school
requires full time
teacher for general subjects.
One post for infants and one
for 5-8 years.
Applications with curricu-
lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Physics

KENT

**Duke of York's Royal
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Independent Boarding School**
470 BOYS 11-18 (Re-Advertisement)

As a result of a developing curriculum within the Science
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Level standard and also to play an active part in the
development of Technology and/or Micro Electronics courses.
The post is seen as an ideal opportunity for a recently qualified
Physics Teacher who will have a relevant specialisation to
establish himself/herself in these important areas.

Ability to coach at least one of the major sports would be
desirable. Candidates must be prepared to commit themselves
fully to Boarding School life. Both single and married accom-
modation is available at a fair rent.

Salary - Burnham Scale 1 plus a pensionable Boarding
School Allowance. Application form from the Headmaster
(Tel 0304 230323 Ext 25), Duke of York's Royal Military School,
Dover, Kent, CT16 5EQ. The Civil Service is an Equal
Opportunities Employer. AW1846.

LONDON

**YESSODEY HATORAH
PRIMARY GIRLS' SCHOOL**
153 Stamford Hill, London
N16
Suitably qualified teacher re-
quired for September 1984.
Please phone Mrs. Jacobson
on 08254 1111 for details and
c.v. names and addresses of
time telephone number to
Headmistress at 2-4 Amhurst
Park, London N16. (08254)
185624

SUSSEX

GORING HALL SCHOOL
Boarding & Day School -
130 Boys
Required from September
1984:

- 1) English Master to 'O'
Level
- 2) Geography/Economics
to 'O' Level
- 3) French/Music

The first two posts are
residential - single accom-
modation only available.
The third post is either
residential or non-residen-
tial.

Please forward your c.v.
and names of two referees
to the Headmaster, Goring
Hall School, Goring-by-Sea,
Sussex GU14 0XU. (07106) 185624

SUSSEX

Chemistry A level, Maths A
and O level, teachers required
part-time from September
1984.

Apply: The Chairman,
Michael Hall School, Forest
Row, Sussex RH18 5JR
(08823)

SUSSEX

Experienced teacher wanted
for Spring term 1984 to take
general subjects in the lower
school. The post is residential
during term time and includes
normal duties and assist-
ance with games.
Please apply to N.A. Sing-
hvi, Headmaster, Lancing
College, Sussex. (09944) 185624

SUSSEX

For September 1984. A full
time independent school
requires full time
teacher for general subjects.
One post for infants and one
for 5-8 years.
Applications with curricu-
lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W15

For September 1984. A full
 time independent school
requires full time
teacher for general subjects.
One post for infants and one
for 5-8 years.
Applications with curricu-
lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W6

ST. PAUL'S GIRLS' SCHOOL
For September 1984. A full
 time independent school
requires full time
teacher for general subjects.
One post for infants and one
for 5-8 years.
Applications with curricu-
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Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W6

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One post for infants and one
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BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W6

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One post for infants and one
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Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W6

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Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

DERBYSHIRE

**AN M'S
Bakewell**
P.S. Boarding School of
150
Required September 1984 a
qualified TEACHER OF
FRENCH to share the Com-
puter and entrance teaching,
another
average 10.
Please apply to the Head-
master, Teachers' Super-
market, single accommodation
available. Very generous terms for
school and daughters in the
school.
Please apply in writing
with C.V. and references to the
Headmaster, Anselm's School,
Bakewell, Derbyshire
(08254) 203624

STAFFORDSHIRE

VARLEY HALL
North Stafford
Required for September or
October 1984.
Young and Enthusiastic
School Teacher to teach Com-
bined Science and Mathemat-
ics to 150 boys aged 11-18.
An ability to teach an
advantage although not
essential. Single person
accommodation is available.
from applicants. Please
send application with C.V.
and references to the Head-
master, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

SUSSEX

Chemistry A level, Maths A
and O level, teachers required
part-time from September
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Apply: The Chairman,
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(08823)

SUSSEX

Experienced teacher wanted
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LONDON W15

For September 1984. A full
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lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
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BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

LONDON W6

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Applications with curricu-
lums to be sent to: The
Headmaster, Stoning College,
Stonington, West Sussex
BN15 0RH. (08272) 184824

Colleges of Further
Education

Other Appointments

CUMBRIA

**COUNTRY COUNCIL
WEST CUMBRIA**
Park Lane, Workington
CA14 3JW

Applications for LECTURER I
POSTS IN:
PHYSICAL EDUCATION &
SPORTS STUDIES

To teach on the full-time
Sports Studies Course and
assist in Residential Mod-
ules (Outdoor Pursuits).

BUSINESS STUDIES
To teach on BTEC
National and General
Courses, offering subsec-
tion, Accounting, Govern-
ment, Economics.

Post available from 1st
September, 1984.

Further particulars and
application forms from
Principal's Office, Closing
date 1st August 1984. (09586)
220026

DUDLEY

METROPOLITAN

BOROUGH

DUDLEY COLLEGE OF

TECHNOLOGY

LECTURERS I

£5,649 - £9,735 - for
September 1984. Only
one post available. Ap-
plicants are connected with
the technical Vocational
Education Initiative (VET
Initiative). Involve teaching 18
year olds on a school/col-
lege link programme.

(a) COMPUTING AND
ELECTRONICS
(b) TYPING AND
RELATED SUBJECTS

Successful candidates must
have appropriate industrial
and commercial experience
and suitable academic
qualifications.

Application forms/da-
tails (enclosed SAE) from
Principal's Office, The Broad-
way, Edgbaston, Birming-
ham B15 2TT. (09242) 220026

HERTFORDSHIRE

CASIO COLLEGE

Langley Road, Watford WD1

81P

Department of Academic

and Studies

Vacancies for September

1984. Applications for

lecturers in the following

subjects: (a) Business

Studies (b) Computing

and Electronics (c) Design

and Technology (d) Engi-

neering (e) Health

Care (f) Home Sci-

ence (g) Law (h) Life

Sciences (i) Maths (j)

Physical Education (k)

Sports Studies (l) So-

cial Sciences (m) The

Arts (n) Music (o) The

Environment (p) Other

Subjects. Applications

should be sent to the

Principal, Casio College,
Langley Road, Watford
WD1 8JF. (09242) 220026

BRIXTON COLLEGE

88 Brixton Hill, SW2

LECTURER I COMMUNITY CARE

A Lecturer with background in social

work, child care, health, welfare or other

relevant discipline is required to work on a

variety of 'series' courses. The initial

teaching will be mainly on the City

Guides Community Care Course.

Closing date for applications 18

August. Reference PS1.

PART-TIME TEACHING

We have vacancies from time to time for

part-time staff (day and/or evenings only)

to teach on a wide range of courses

within the College. We have particular

vacancies from 10 September 1984 for

staff to teach: (a) ELECTRICAL

ELECTRONICS (b) COMMUNICATIONS

TECHNOLOGY (c) DESIGN AND

TECHNOLOGY (d) ENGINEERING (e) HEALTH

CARE (f) HOME SCIENCE (g) LAW (h) LIFE

SCIENCES (i) MATHS (j) PHYSICAL

EDUCATION (k) SPORTS STUDIES (l) SO-

CIAL SCIENCES (m) THE ARTS (n) MUSIC

(o) THE ENVIRONMENT (p) OTHER

SUBJECTS. Applications should be sent to

the Principal, Brixton College, 88 Brixton

Hill, SW2. (07223) 220026

DUDLEY

METROPOLITAN

BOROUGH

DUDLEY COLLEGE OF

TECHNOLOGY

ARTIST/CRAFTSMEN

ON

1984.
Gold
of
ation
days

0467

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11

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10

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the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

... ..

STATIONER, AND BOOKBINDER

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (REGD.)
The National Secretary is the highest official of the Institute which is the union for 17,000 primary school teachers. The appointee will be responsible for the administration of the Institute and its activities including negotiation with government and employing authorities.
The position will be taken up early in the new year and applications will close 31 August 1984.
Further details are available from P.O. Box 466, Wellington, New Zealand. Phone: 04-488 685. (08046) 460000

NORTH AFRICA

THE BRITISH SCHOOL Tripoli, Libya
Headmaster required for January 1985. The School provides an English education for the families of British and other foreign nationals living in Libya. There are currently 130 children aged 3-11 in the school which has a staff of 9. An excellent salary is offered together with generous allowances.
Further details can be obtained from G. Handcastle, Lane, Hemmingford, Cambs. The Tall House, Loyal Oak, New Zealand. Phone: 04-488 685. (08046) 460000

Administration
Local Education
Authority

BARNET LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CAREERS OFFICER
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Careers Officer. Salary depending upon training and experience within Scale 5/6 £7,815 to £9,335 inclusive.
Application forms and further details available from the Director of Education, Barnet, Town Hall, Friars Barnet, Herts. Tel: 01-368 1235. Ext. 925. Ref: ADM/7/1984. Closing date 10 August 1984.
We welcome applications from registered disabled persons. (05895) 460000

NORFOLK

AREA CAREERS OFFICER (WEST)
Salary: S.O.1 £9,060 - £9,660
Experienced Careers Officer required for this senior management post in the County Careers Service.
The post is based at King's Lynn and the holder responsible for the operation of the Service in the Western Area of Norfolk.
Essential Car User allowance is attached to this post.
Application forms and further particulars on request to the County Education Officer, Room 5, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 3DL to be returned by 17th August 1984. (08047) 460000

City of
Manchester
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

Continuing Education Branch - Careers Service

Principal Careers Officer
(under review)

Salary scale: PO5 - £13725-£14709
Applications are invited from qualified and experienced careers officers. The post carries responsibility for the administration, organisation and further development of a progressive Careers Service.
Varied activities in guidance, training and employment are carried out. A well developed computer system is in use. The successful candidate who should combine good organisational ability with an innovative approach, will be expected to undertake new initiatives with both young and adult unemployed and to guide developments in response to the needs of a multi-racial City with high levels of unemployment.
The City Council operates a Union Membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union.
Application forms and further particulars are available from the Chief Education Officer, Education Personnel Office, Crown Square, Manchester M2 3BB, quoting Ref E1. Tel: 081-228 2191 Ext. 7315.
Closing date: 17 August 1984.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER (1228)

ADMIN L.E.A.
continued

GALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CAREERS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER
SALARY SCALE 4 (£6,264 - £7,005)

Applications are invited from persons suitably qualified or experienced in the following areas: Youth Work or Teaching including those recently qualified, plus the post involves establishing contact with, and offering practical support to, mainly unemployed young people who may not receive the full benefit of traditional employment services. The post is temporary until 31st March 1987, and has a casual user car allowance.
Application form and further details obtainable (s.a.e.) from Chief Education Officer, Galderdale, Northgate House, Northgate, Halifax HX1 1UN whom completed forms should be returned by 17th August 1984. (0837) 480000

Administration
General

BRISTOL
BRISTOL FOLK HOUSE
ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE
Registered Charity No. 301666

Requires Secretary/Administrator with a commitment to Adult Education and in the field of work in a busy independent centre dealing personally with tutors, administration and general matters in consultation with the Director. Salary scale £5,640 - £6,175.
Ref 6906
Required to work with the young unemployed to undertake liaison with employers including the provision of jobfinder services and to be involved in the development of the Youth Training Scheme.
The successful applicant will be based in the Westbury District Careers Office.
For further details and application form please write to the Divisional Careers Officer, Mansfield House, Nutfield Place, Portsmouth PO1 4JF. Closing a stamped addressed envelope or telephone call 0705 555555. Retention appropriate reference.
Returnable by Monday, 20th August, 1984.
Post No. CE/11/84, 480000 (08435)

Child Care

CUMBRIA
CEDAR HOUSE SCHOOL
HEAD OF HOUSE
HEAD OF HOUSE is required in September for a unit of 10 boys and girls of secondary age (12-15 years). The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.
This is a senior position for a person with appropriate qualifications, experience in working with children and the ability to manage staff.
Salary Scale: JNC negotiable.
Hours: 48 per week.
ENQUIRIES To: Headmaster - Tel: 0468 71181.
Applications (no formal) to: The Headmaster, Cedar House School, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. (05010) 540000

Educational Psychologists

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL is seeking to make permanent appointments of fully qualified educational psychologists to these posts as soon as possible.
Post 1: Full-time, based in Buxton
The team of 3 psychologists uses regular visits to schools and the design and support of Individual Learning Programmes together with in-service training as major elements of its service delivery. An ability to work in these ways, as well as by other forms of case work and statutory assessments, is essential.
Post 2: Part-time (0.5 FTE) based in Chesterfield
In the first instance the successful candidate is required to undertake generic work covering the full range of service activities. The team of 6 psychologists emphasises regular visits, in-service training and consultation in its work with mainstream schools.
Post 3: Part-time (0.5 FTE) based in Ripley
The Ripley team covers the Amber Valley and Erewash Areas of Derbyshire and uses a wide range of approaches, with an emphasis on in-service training for teachers.
All three posts are permanent appointments. It would be possible for one person to apply for both part-time posts.
Locums will be required pending permanent appointments.
Applicants should possess an Honours Degree in Psychology, relevant teaching experience and post-graduate training in educational psychology.
Salary within the Statutory Scales for Educational Psychologists - points 6-22 (£8,454-£14,253). Scales are paid pro-rata for part-time appointments.
Removal expenses and lodging allowance are payable in approved cases. Car loans are normally available.
Traveling allowance in accordance with the County Council's current rules for essential users.
Application forms and further details for the above posts (S.A.E. please) may be obtained from the Director of Education, County Offices, Matlock, Derbyshire. Closing date: 31 August 1984.
DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

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Education
Psychologists

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST
(£10,145 - £14,533)
Applications are invited for the above permanent post which will be vacant from 1st September 1984.
Application form and further details are available from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, 7th Floor, Aldon House, Tyne Road, Sunderland Road, Gateshead NE8 3EL, returnable by 15th August 1984. (06854) 560000

GRAMPIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
PSYCHOLOGIST

Required for child guidance service in Elgin. (Ref. 5834) Moray Division and in Aberdeen (Ref. 579/84) temporary post during maternity leave. Candidates should be appropriately qualified and hold a post-graduate qualification in educational psychology. Salary £10,554 to £14,766.
Application forms (3 copies) from Director of Manpower, Woodhill House, Aberdeen AB9 3LU. Closing date: August 20, (08057) 170000

STOCKPORT
EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGIST

(Starting salary will be determined by age and experience)
The successful candidate will join a team of 5 Psychologists under the auspices of the Chief Education Psychologist. Candidates should have an honours degree in psychology, appropriate teacher training, a minimum of two years teaching experience, post graduate training, and expert knowledge of educational difficulties.
This is a senior position for a person with appropriate qualifications, experience in working with children and the ability to manage staff.
Salary Scale: JNC negotiable.
Hours: 48 per week.
ENQUIRIES To: Headmaster - Tel: 0468 71181.
Applications (no formal) to: The Headmaster, Cedar House School, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. (05010) 540000

Ancillary Services

SUSSEX

MATRON

Required from September 1984 for Boys Independent School of 130 pupils, of which approximately half are boarders.
This post would suit a woman, aged at least 35 years and over, possibly a widow or divorcee with no dependent relatives.
Please send a.v. to the Headmaster, Corring Hill School, Ilkley Way, Bognor Regis BN15 2JG. (09055) 640000

ASSISTANT, EDUCATION REGISTRY
BBC DATA

The senior post in a team of four responsible for classifying, indexing and answering enquiries on documents generated by the Educational Broadcasting Departments in Radio and Television.
Education to 'A' level standard or good experience in classifying and indexing current documents, the ability to determine priorities and to liaise effectively with the users and the capacity to train and supervise junior staff is essential.
Salary £6,671 - £7,944. Based Central London, moving to Ealing early in 1985. Relocation expenses considered.
Contact us immediately for further details and application form (quote ref. 2715/TES and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5799.

We are an equal opportunities employer

BBC

Miscellaneous

CHELTENHAM

HEALTH CLUB MANAGER (MALE)
Cheltenham
The successful applicant will be responsible for the running of the club during the opening hours for men.
The position involves responsibility for staff management, general administration, liaison with members and management of the facilities and services provided. The primary responsibility, however, is for the promotion of membership. This requires a strong belief in the benefits of regular controlled exercise and an ability to communicate that belief clearly and enthusiastically. Good general appearance is also essential.
This is an ideal opportunity to move into the rapidly expanding field of commercial fitness and leisure facilities with a developing and highly professional service. Salary scales are available.
In the first instance, please send a.v. covering letter and recent photograph to: Mr. A. Stewart, SCDC, Newcombe House, 46 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JB. Tel: 01-229 1234.
Closing date August 24th 1984. (1224)

SCHOOL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
School Curriculum Industry Project (SCIP)Central
Team Member
Scale 4 (+ Inner London Weighting)

SCIP is a curriculum development project extending its work from September 1984 to 60 LEAs. In these LEAs SCIP will be working with a number of schools to develop local curriculum.
Applications are invited to fill one remaining position in the Central Team of the Project.
The precise duties of the post are negotiable. The job will involve working from the London Office and supporting the work of the Southern group of LEA coordinators. Secondment from existing post possible.
Please write for further details and application form to: Mrs A. Stewart, SCDC, Newcombe House, 46 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JB. Tel: 01-229 1234.
Closing date August 24th 1984. (1224)

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF Rochdale
Education DepartmentAn Equal Opportunity Employer
OPEN TECH UNIT

Rochdale Borough Council has recently made a successful bid to Manpower Services Commission for large-scale funding for a major innovative project based on the new State Mill Education and Training Centre. The aim of the Open Tech Unit will be to develop open learning material for use by local industry and training and education agents.
A manager for the Open Tech Unit has recently been appointed. The Council is now seeking further appointments to the posts of:

TRAINING DESIGNERS
(Two posts) - Salary £12084 - £13443COUNSELLOR
Salary £10883 - £12552OPEN LEARNING TUTORS
(Two posts) - Salary £10883 - £12552

Application forms and further details are available on receipt of a foolscap stamped addressed envelope from the Chief Education Officer (Staffing Section), Education Department, PO Box 70, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale OL18 1YD. Applications should be returned to that address by Friday 24th August 1984. Applicants should make it clear when returning their application forms which of the posts are subject of their application. (1224)

Sultanate of Oman
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

The Royal Guard Brigade in the Sultanate of Oman require to appoint a qualified male junior English Language teacher (minimum age 25). The candidate must be British born and educated, with experience of teaching foreign students or TEFL qualifications, and must be able to drive.
Duties
The successful candidate, who will be responsible to the Senior Tutor, will be required to teach English to a class of 9 students from beginners to FCE level. Facilities include fully equipped classroom with language laboratory and video equipment.
Conditions
Fully-furnished, two bedroomed flat with free electricity and water. Free car with servicing and petrol. 80 days' annual leave to be taken in July and August. Air fares on appointment and for leave periods are free of charge to applicant between Oman and place of residence. Free medical facilities available.
Salary
Between Riels Omani 440 and 620 per month according to experience and qualifications. 20% (Monthly) increment. The initial contract (probationary) will be for a two year period. Applications should be made in writing, with full CV, to the address shown below. Interviews will be held in London during August 1984, and candidates will be required to commence duties during the term in September.

CHARLES KENDALL AND PARTNERS LTD
7 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BJ (1228)

Somerset County Council

Somerset Education & Cultural Services Committee
CAREERS SERVICE

Applications are invited for the following posts:-

(a) SENIOR CAREERS OFFICER
(Training and Development)
Salary Grade P.O.1, range currently £10,242-£11,052

The successful candidate will be based at County Hall, Taunton and will be responsible to the Education Officer (Careers) for the planning, supervision and co-ordination of all aspects of careers officer and careers teacher in-service training; and for leading and monitoring the development of new psychometric and computerized guidance aids. He/she will also carry a small caseload of post 16 able students.

(b) SENIOR CAREERS OFFICER
Taunton and West Somerset
Salary Grade S.O.1, range currently £9,060-£9,660

The successful candidate will combine the role of deputy to the Area Careers Officer with a personal caseload of post 16 able students. Candidates for both posts should be qualified and experienced careers officers and for post (a) should preferably have an occupational psychology background together with a knowledge of computer development in the careers field.
Further particulars and application forms are available from the Chief Education Officer, Staffing N.T. Section, County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY. Stamped addressed envelopes, please. Closing date: 17.8.84. (1908)

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

TEMPORARY
CAREERS OFFICER
(2 POSTS)

Scale 4/6 £6,264/£8,712 per annum

Qualified Officers will commence on £7,191 per annum. Applicants should preferably be qualified Careers Officers holding the Diploma in Careers Guidance. The appointments will be for the duration of the maternity leave of two permanent members of staff.

Application forms and further details which are available from the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU (Tel: 22311 Extns. 587 and 6105) should be returned by 13th August, 1984. Trade Union Membership is a condition of service.
An Equal Opportunity Employer (1898)

Careers Officer
(Special Needs)

Scale 6/SO1 £8154 - £9660

A vacancy has arisen for a qualified Careers Officer to work in East Wight, based at Ryde Careers Office. The postholder will carry a reduced generic caseload in the island's maintained 13-18 comprehensive schools and will assume special responsibility for the handicapped young people in the island.

The post is already established but there is scope for development and preference will be given to applicants with some knowledge of work with the handicapped.
The successful applicant will be expected to become fully involved with all Isle of Wight Careers Service activities and developments.
Application form and further details are available from the County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Newport, I.W. Closing Date: 17 August. (1840)

Isle of Wight

Careers Officer

(EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT) LINCOLN SS £7,191-£7,890

Required at Lincoln Careers Office, Park Street, Lincoln from 3rd September 1984. Applicants should preferably be qualified and/or experienced Careers Officers, including students who have recently completed, or will shortly be completing, DCG courses. Other applicants with appropriate industrial, commercial or professional backgrounds may also be considered.

The person appointed will be responsible for assisting young people to obtain employment, further education and/or training; for the development of the Youth Training Scheme, to meet the needs of young people primarily in Lincoln and the surrounding area and will also be required to work in Gainsborough as and when necessary. He/she will assist the other Careers Officers in the selection for and the follow-up and counselling of individual young people during their transition from education to employment and/or training.
Applicants must hold a current full driving licence and a casual user car allowance will be payable. Relocation expenses are reimbursable in appropriate cases up to a maximum of £2,081, excluding VAT to the successful candidate who is buying and selling a property.
This post is grant-aided by the Department of Employment and will be subject to review if the grant is withdrawn or modified.

Application forms and further details are available from: The Personnel Officer, County Offices, Lincoln. Tel: Lincoln (0532) 24452. Please quote ED514. Closing date: 17th August 1984. (1338)

Lincolnshire County Council

Institute of Social Studies
the Hague the Netherlands

has a vacancy for a

SENIOR
DESK EDITOR

who is required to manage a small but busy Publications Office.
The candidate must cope with a wide variety of publications in the fields of Development and Social Studies.

Requirements:
The candidate must be fluent in the English language (Dutch and other languages are a definite asset), and be conversant with all aspects of editing and the preparation of manuscripts for press.
The successful candidate will be expected to control the work of another editor, a secretary, and outside editors.

Salary:
In accordance with the scales applied at Dutch universities; dependent on qualifications and experience.

Applications accompanied by a curriculum vitae with the names of three referees should be sent before 1 September 1984 to the Rector of the Institute of Social Studies, Badhuysweg 251, The Hague, The Netherlands. (1899)

